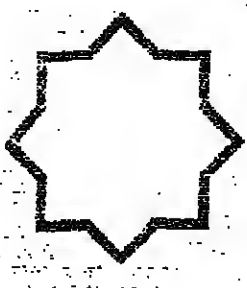


# The Star



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AMMAN, 25-31 JULY, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 11, 350 fils

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

## A hot session looms for government in Lower House

By Hamdan Al Haj

**Special to The Star**  
THE EXTRAORDINARY session of the Lower House of Parliament, which began on Saturday, promises to be a long and controversial one with 60 items on the agenda, including some sensitive draft laws.

Government and the deputies started on the wrong foot when in the opening session, Sunday, opposition deputies rejected the Jordanian-French Financial Protocol. They said if adopted, the protocol will increase Jordan's debt burden.

Other members appealed to the government to cancel the protocol signed between the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and a foreign company assigned to carry out oil exploration works in Jordan. The deputies expressed their doubts about the origin of the company and its real intentions.

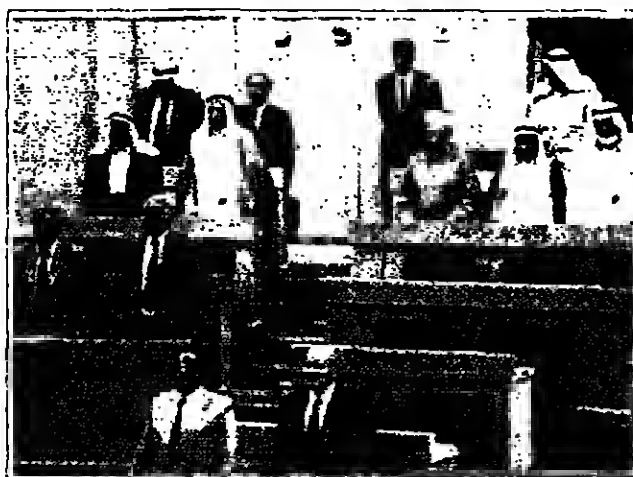
Deputies also returned the Petra (Jordan News Agency) draft law and the Radio and TV Corporation draft law because they lacked the necessary covering letters.

The discrepancy in views between the government and

opposition was seen by observers as an ominous sign. No sooner the session was opened than 41 deputies sent a memorandum to the speaker of Lower House, Saad Hayel Srour, calling for a special session to discuss government decision to remove bread subsidies and raise its prices.

The 41 deputies belong to different blocs in parliament representing opposition, centrists and pro-government parties. The memo can be considered as an indirect vote of no confidence for the government. Those who signed it include former ministers such as Abdel Baqi Jammo, Nader Al Dubeirat, Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani, Dr Abdullah Al Akailah, Samir Habashneh, Mansour Bin Tarif, Trad Al Qadi, Mohammad Adhoub Al Zabin and Abdul Majed Al Azzam in addition to former Prime Minister Tahir Al Masri.

Opposition deputies who signed the memorandum were: Ahmed Al Kofahi, Bassam Al Omoush, Mohammad Owaidha, Hammam Sa'ad, Mohammed Al Haj, Ahmad Al Kassasbeh, Bassam Haddadin,



Deputies open Lower House session

Abdul Mune'm Abu Zanat, and Deib Abdullah.

Other pro-government deputies who signed this memo were Fawaz Al Zu'bi, Abdullah Akhu Rishaidah Fawzi Al Tumi, Hani Hajazin, Jamil Al Hishoub, Ali Shati and Hatem Al Ghazawi.

The memorandum has angered some ministers who expressed dissatisfaction with the actions of some deputies.

Foreign affairs and ending with Labor and Social Development.

Despite Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti's attempts to lure some opposition deputies to his side—he invited Islamic Action Front deputy, Dr Bassam Al Omoush to accompany him on his recent visit to Algeria and France—it became apparent that Dr Omoush is still bound by his party's whip.

On Sunday, a number of heads of professional federations and general secretaries of some parties together with representatives of social and women organizations staged a sit-in opposite Parliament protesting the government decision to hike bread prices.

On the other hand, Mr Kabariti, meeting with the crowds participating in the sit-in, agreed to hold a debate saying "I'm ready for the challenge, I shall debate with you through TV. If you manage to convince me, I promise to reconsider all procedures."

The bread issue will cast a shadow over the extraordinary

Continued on page 2

Hervé de Charette passe par la Jordanie  
Voir page 12

## Levy meets with Arafat, pledges more talks

By Glenn Frankel  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

JERUSALEM—In a small villa near the Gaza Strip military checkpoint that has long been a symbol of the enmity and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians, Israel's foreign minister met Tuesday with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and said that both sides are committed to advancing the fragile peace process.

David Levy and Arafat emerged from the 90-minute session with smiles and handshakes but no breakthroughs beyond a pledge to hold more talks in the future. But in many ways the meeting itself was a breakthrough. Not only was it the first time that a senior official of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new right-wing government has met with the Palestinian leader, but it was also the first time that a senior member of the Likud political party—which long treated Arafat as a murderer, war criminal and crypto-Nazi—had sat down with the head of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

For years, Likud leaders had denounced any Israeli who met with Arafat, and the party had repeatedly broadcast footage of



Levy and Arafat meet for the first time

Labor Party predecessor Shimon Peres's handshakes with the PLO leader during the recent election campaign, which Netanyahu narrowly won. Still, while commentators noted the unprecedented nature of Tuesday's session, the meeting had an air of inevitability as much as of history, and it seemed to constitute another step toward an eventual meeting between Arafat and Netanyahu.

Both Arafat and Levy were effusive after the session. "The meeting was very fruitful and

productive and positive," said the Palestinian leader, who in recent weeks had restrained his rhetoric despite his growing impatience with the new prime minister's hard-line statements and refusal to meet with him. Tuesday, Arafat pledged to work "with open hearts ... side by side in order to support this relationship for the benefit of Israel and the Palestinian people."

Levy praised Arafat's openness and cooperative attitude.

Continued on page 2

## Court case brings debate over national unity into focus

By Raed Al Abed

**Star Staff Writer**  
THE CONTROVERSY over the future of Palestinians in Jordan entered a new phase this week when the Amman Public Prosecutor, Mr Jamal Al Zou'bi, referred to the Amman Court of First Instance, Mr Jihad Al Moumany, editor-in-chief of the weekly *Shihani* newspaper and Dr Ahmad Owaidi Al Abbadi.

Mr Zou'bi charged both men with harming national unity and spreading material that invites intolerance and promotes sectarianism and conflicts between the elements of one nation. He cited the Press and Publication and the Penal Code laws.

The charges against Dr Abbadi, were brought about by a local lawyer, and it was based on an interview *Shihani* had published with Abbadi last June in which he talked about the rights of Jordanians and Palestinians in Jordan. The charges against Moumany were filed by the Public Prosecutor.

In his interview with *Shihani* Dr Al Abbadi, who has been a controversial figure in Jordanian politics ever since he was elected to Parliament in the 1989 elections, repeated earlier calls for stripping Jordanians of the Palestinian origin from their political rights.



Abbadi

"Palestinians in Jordan are an Arab community and not Jordanians. Their rights are administrative ones, not natural or historical, but only gains, not political or sovereign rights..." Al Abbadi said in the two-page interview. "I will feel comfortable if the Palestinians leave."

In his list of charges, the Public Prosecutor said he found no excuse for the press while practicing its freedom within the state of law to break from its noble message and publish material that insults national unity.

"The Constitution guarantees the freedom of expression for



Habboub

citizens, but democracy does not mean that person could do what ever he wishes," Zou'bi said.

Dr Abbadi's statements were widely criticized by different sectors in the country. Advocate Ahmad Habboub, a Jordanian of a Palestinian origin, took the initiative and filed a lawsuit against Dr Abbadi charging him with prejudicing national unity. In his lawsuit, Mr Habboub highlighted 13 excerpts from the interview.

"Al Abbadi's statements are the crime of the prejudicing of national unity," because they put in doubt the citizenship of Jordanians of Palestinian origin,"

he said. "It also creates doubts over their affiliation and loyalty to their country, Jordan."

Mr Habboub told *The Star* that he will also be filing a civil lawsuit against Dr Abbadi in which he will ask for JD 1 million in damages. He said the money will be used to finance the creation of an anti-regionalism center in Jordan.

On his part, Dr Abbadi expressed his surprise at the lawsuit but said that the case was now before the courts. "It is a normal press and publication case," he expressed his astonishment about the reaction of the local and international media over the case.

"The issue of the Jordanian-Palestinian relation is over since His Majesty King Hussein and Parliament appealed to stop it," Dr Abbadi said. "But the new charges against me will re-open the file again."

Dr Abbadi revealed that his lawyer will be former member of the Cassation Court Dr Ahmad Sa'ad Al Moumany.

"The subject is merely my personal political opinion, it was expressed under the constitution and my freedom of expression, and freedom of orientation," Dr Abbadi said. "I am not worried regarding this case. But I am

amazed at this great worry and concern by the press, which was exaggerated."

But Dr Abbadi's political opinions, which he expressed freely through his weekly columns in a number of newspapers, had labeled him as a hard-line regionalist and an anti-Palestinian. "National unity is a political concept not a legal term. Every political school has its own interpretation concerning national unity. The various political schools also differ in interpreting regionalism and nationalism," he told *The Star*.

"If our affiliation and love of Jordan and Jordanians, and if our insistence concerning the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland and to establish their state on their land, if this talk is considered regionalism, I wonder what nationalism is?" he added.

Dr Abbadi said his views were actually meant to serve the interests of Jordanians and Palestinians. He accused the press of spreading the term 'regionalism'.

Dr Abbadi's writings had invited responses from Jordanians of Palestinian origin. He said that a number of Jordanians

Continued on page 2

## Intensive diplomacy aims at ending gridlock in peace process

By Ahmed Shaker

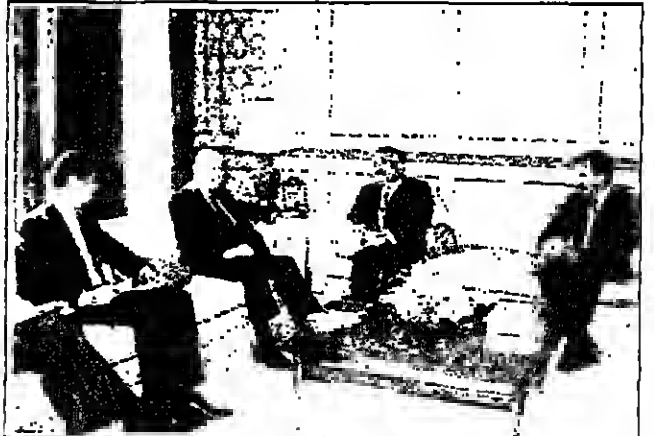
**Special to The Star**

THE REGION is witnessing intensified diplomacy aimed at the resumption of the peace talks on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks that is expected to take place in September in Washington.

This comes after the mobilization of talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track as a result of the meeting between PNA President Yasser Arafat and the Israeli Foreign Minister, David Levy.

Through His Majesty King Hussein and Mr Abdul Karim Kabariti, Jordan was able to contribute a great deal to removing the obstacles between Israelis and Palestinians and resume talks which have been frozen since the election of a Likud-led hardline government in Israel in May.

Arab leaders expressed support for Jordan in its pursuit to overcome differences between Arab countries and to seek a united position based on the land-for-peace principle.



HRH Prince Hassan receives French Minister de Charette, Tuesday. Prime Minister Kabariti also attended the meeting.

Among Jordan's efforts to revive the talks is the expected summit between King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Assad on one hand, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's upcoming visit to Jordan, on the other.

Minister Herve de Charette to Jordan last Tuesday also focused on these efforts. The King also received a message from US President Bill Clinton dealing with the future of

Continued on page 2

## Palestinians savor Olympic competition, rapport with Israelis

By William Drozdiak  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

ATLANTA—Even before the races start at Olympic Stadium, Majid Abu Maraheel has accomplished everything he set out to achieve. The 32-year-old distance runner knows he cannot win a medal, but he already

feels triumphant as the first athlete in history to carry the Palestinian flag into the Games.

For Maraheel and his fellow runner, Ihab Salama, the opportunity to compete in the Atlanta Games is a vindication of the nationalist dreams of the two-year-old Palestinian Authority, the self-rule territory headed by Yasser Arafat that encompasses Gaza and the town of Jericho on the West Bank of the Jordan River. "I've been crying with joy so often that I hardly can keep my mind on training," said

Maraheel, a government security agent and the father of five children. "The experience of being here is worth a lifetime of running, but my main purpose is to remind the world that Palestine exists."

Billed as the biggest in history, the Games have lured a record number of 197 teams. The two-man Palestinian squad is one of 28 aspiring or new nations appearing for the first time, including many countries spawned by the fragmentations of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

The tensions from recent conflicts that have changed the world map since the 1992 Barcelona Games are evident on the sprawling campus of Georgia Tech, which serves as temporary home for the 10,000 athletes here. At the dining hall

and the "cardio theater" workout gym, athletes from rival nations such as North and South Korea, China and Taiwan—which is referred to as Chinese Taipei during the Games—Croatia and the rump Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) maintain a frosty distance from each other.

But in contrast, Palestinian and Israeli teams have struck up a rapport. At the opening ceremonies, the heads of their two delegations, Muammar Bissiso of the Palestinian Authority and Ephraim Zinger of Israel, sought out each other on the stadium infield to encourage a fresh dialogue through the Olympics that might infuse new momentum into the stalled Middle East peace process.



Palestinian team at inauguration ceremony of Olympics

"The atmosphere here is very special in that it brings together people from all races, colors and political outlook,"

Zinger said. "We both agreed that we should try to use these Games to create some kind of leverage that would help over-

come barriers between our peoples in real life."

Bissiso said he shared Zinger's vision about employing the Olympics for healthy political goals. "We wanted to set a good tone in taking our pictures together there at the ceremony. We both believe that you can use sports to build bridges of trust between former enemies. If the United States and China can end hostility through Ping-Pong, why we can't we do the same thing between Israelis and Palestinians at the Olympics?"

Bissiso said he regretted, however, that the Israelis refused to allow Palestinians in the diaspora to join the Olympic team. "We could have had between 30 and 40 athletes here, but the Israelis refused to approve the necessary documents because they still contest the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland."

The Palestinian athletes who

Continued on page 3

On the Occasion of  
The Prophet's Birthday



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and to the Jordanian People

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# JORDAN

## WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

### King recovers from minor operation

His Majesty King Hussein has had a successful operation and is now resting. His personal physician, Dr Farraj, said the King underwent minor surgery in the London Clinic for the removal of an abscess and is now feeling fine.



The King later received many letters of congratulations for the success of the operation. King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Sultan Qaboos Oman, the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani directly phoned the King.

### Teachers to the Gulf

It seems that the Gulf countries may be opening up at last. Well, in the field of education at least. The head of the United Arab Emirates Contract Committee will arrive in Amman on 30 July to discuss possible ways of cooperation. Mr Salem Al Ghamdi, the general secretary of the Ministry of Education in the UAE is looking for teachers and educational supervisors to start work in the Emirates at the beginning of this coming school year. It is thought that about 150 teachers will be taken. It is understood that the Omani Contract Committee has already agreed to take 250 teachers from this country. At the moment, they are being interviewed.

### Investments in Amman

The Mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), Dr Mamdouh Al Abbadi, is studying investment tenders related to the first and biggest tourism project in Amman at a cost of more than JD 10 million. The execution of the project is expected to start by next year. Many investment companies submitted their offers for the project which will be at

Ghamdan Park. The project is over 20 dunums and involves creation of a lake to be able to take small boats, a tourist village which embodies Jordanian folklore and heritage, a camping area and a car park. There is also a 20 dunums garden called "the small Jordan" which will display the historical and archaeological features of Jordan.



Al Abbadi

**Journalist arrested**  
Nasser Qamash, chief editor of *Sawt Al Maraa* weekly, was released on bail yesterday. Wednesday as a result of intervention from the Jordan Press Association (JPA). The editor was taken into custody last Saturday after he published an article in his newspaper describing the Raghadan Bus Station as becoming a center for "drugs and prostitution." As a result, the Press and Publication Dept., filed a complaint to the public prosecutor. The article was described as

inaccurate that tarnished the reputation of public facilities in Jordan. Previous request to grant bail to Mr Qamash was refused, but it seems that the last attempt worked. The new president of the JPA who engineered the release, said "we are against the arrest of any journalist." The arrest of Qamash has created a bit of a problem. His case was taken up by Reporers Sans Frontiers, the Paris-based international organization concerned with the protection of the press. It is said that they appealed to HM King Hussein for his release.

### Tourists everywhere!

More and more tourists are coming to Amman than ever before. In the first six months of this year, the number of tourists that have come to Jordan increased by 7.3 percent compared to the same time last year. Up till last June the number of tourists reached 478,596. These were from all over the world. More and more tourists are coming from the Gulf countries. Their number was 193,328, that is about 40 percent of the total number of tourists who have visited the country. Israeli tourists came second place. Their number up till June was 55,694, forming about 11 percent. More tourists are coming from the United States than ever before. The number registered was 48,441. About 148,515 are from the European Union.

### Lower House tussle

A bit of a tussle occurred in the opening session of the Lower House of Parliament earlier this week. One Islamic deputy became confused when there was talk about Global Sprint, the new telecommunications company in Jordan. He took the word "global" to mean something very sinister. He cut the word up saying "bal" related to the Zionist Basel conference that was held in Switzerland in 1897, and wondered whether the company had any "Zionist connections." When deputies tried to clarify the misunderstanding and say there was no such connection, the deputy would not be headed, demanding an explanation from the Minister concerned. After

much argument and waste of time, the point was clarified and the deputy took to his seat.

### Accidents at work

Accidents at work is a continual problem. It leads to loss of income and is a continuous drain on the economy. Last year, there was 14,665 accidents in all sectors of the economy. However, 7146 of these, about 49 percent was in the industrial sector. The latest report by the Ministry of Labor says that these accidents could have been avoided if only workers took the proper safety procedures, such as the wearing of gloves, shoes, glasses etc. It stated that these accidents cause much losses to the economy every year. Because of these accidents the economy lost more than JD 14.6 million and the number of days lost was 97522.

### A longer weekend

A two-day weekend may be just around the corner according to government sources. The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Ali Abu Al Ragheb says a two-day weekend would be something good to the welfare of citizens in this country. For one thing, it will give government employees, for instance, more time to spend with their families. For another, it would encourage local tourism, something which the government wants. The minister said the two-day holiday was just an idea that is being discussed with the private sector. If the latter is involved, then the idea may never see the light of day!

### Al Tawara goes free

The President of *Al Bilad* weekly, Mr. Nayef Al Tawara, has been let off the hook. The State Security Court has issued a verdict acquitting the defendant of the two charges that were brought against him. Mr Al Tawara was accused



Al Tawara

of possessing forged bank notes and cooperating with a foreign power. The police arrested him after they found \$100,000 forged note bills in the back seat of his car.



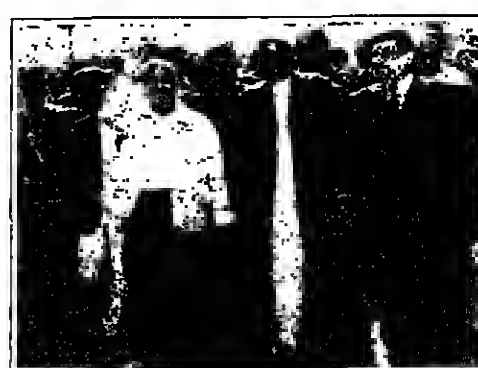
Jahia Rifaat/Ad Distour

### Prince pays visit to the north

HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has toured the north of the country earlier this week. Visiting the Governorate of Ajloun, the purpose of the visit was described as a "humanitarian link" to find out the needs of the people of that area and the possibility for developing the local economy. The emphasis during the visit was how to exploit the resources, including the agricultural ones, to meet the needs of the people.

The Prince said he hoped that a clearer picture would be put forward to start on a comprehensive plan to make Ajloun into a "development unit" within the northern region. At the heart of this unit, the Prince said, would be the attraction of investors to the area.

Prince Hassan said this would involve the need for cooperation, respect for human beings and the proper planning needed before any talk about tourism and the development of infrastructure. The Prince stressed the impor-



tance of the land and the need to protect its resources.

The prince also visited Al Hashimaya, Al Wihdana, Ibbeen, Kufranjah, Anjara and Ajloun.

### Tawjhi results are less than average

The results of the Tawjhi exams have proved more of a disappointment for some than it was for others. While some students obtained high marks, others failed abysmally. But the average pass rate was only 46.7 percent.

Although this is less than half, it is more or less the same when compared with last year. The high rate of failures would appear most in the art stream. The average pass rate was only 38 percent. This may be attributed to the method of rote learning that exists not only in Jordan, but in the whole of the Arab world. Educational specialists have long called for the reform of the system but to no avail. Rote, the memorization process that is involved in the educational process is seen as tedious and one that lacks motivation.

By contrast, the average success rate for the scientific stream was 63.6 percent, the commercial stream, 41.6 percent, Agriculture, 38.5 percent, Industrial 49.3 percent, Nursing 60.9 percent and Catering 60.1 percent.

The Minister of Education, Mr. Munther Al Masri said that 96,888 took the Tawjhi exam and only 41,000 passed. About 43,000 pupils were from private schools. He said the public and private universities will only be able to take in 20,000 while the rest will either have to go to either community colleges or study abroad. The top pupil in the art stream got 98 percent, whereas in the scientific stream the top got 98.6 percent.

Only 11,000 will be accepted in public universities said Dr Maqsoos, the vice-president for academic affairs at the University of Jordan said.

### JEBA, a way for cooperation

The Jordan-Europe Business Association (JEBA) held a closed meeting at the Philadelphia hotel with the Ambassadors, Counselors and the commercial attaches of the European Union states last week. The meeting focused on the long term plan for JEBA between 1996-2000. The President of JEBA, Mr. Mohammad Fayez Khatib outlined the role of association as a non-profit organization which aims at strengthening the economic relations between Jordan and the EU countries on all levels.

## New Czech Ambassador in Amman says prospects for cooperation with Jordan are good

AMMAN, (Petra)—The door is open for more cooperation between Jordan and the Czech Republic, the Czech Ambassador in Amman Tomas Smetanka said.

"We are now in a stage of establishing the bases of economic cooperation which means agreements such as trade, encouragement of investments and air transportation," he added. Mr Smetanka said that the most important contacts between the two countries would be the human and cultural contacts.

"We have just recently prepared the protocol on cultural and educational cooperation for the coming years which we hope to be signed quite early," he added. He pointed out that the Czech government has awarded two scholarships for the coming school year for Jordanian students for the first time.

The Czech Ambassador expressed his country's interest in development in the Middle East. "For obvious reasons, the Middle East is a strategic region and very close to

Europe," he said. "We want to build contacts and relations with Mediterranean countries," added. Mr Smetanka said "we specially appreciate the role that Jordan is playing in the region because of the continuity of its policy, stability, its tremendous contributions to the peace process and for establishing peaceful relations in the region in general."

The Czech Ambassador said his country is keen to get into some projects which are being prepared in Jordan. "The Czech companies are apt to implement some projects here in the fields of water, water treatment and transportation," he added.

He pointed out that some of these companies will come to Jordan next September to present themselves in the international fair which will be held in Amman. Mr Smetanka said the volume of trade between Jordan and the Czech Republic is about \$ 6-8 million per year.

"We feel there is a possibility of expanding that," he added. He said there is a good perspective for developing

political ties between the two countries. "We appreciate the regional and international role of Jordan as well as the internal conditions in Jordan. We know it is a democratic and open political system," he added. He pointed out that the meeting, which took place last year between His Majesty King Hussein and Czech President Vaclav Havel in New York during the meetings of the UN General Assembly, was a fruitful one.

"The two heads of state expressed their will to continue their dialogue and we hope we will have the Czech-Jordanian dialogue on the high level as well as on the working levels," he said. "I feel that these political contacts between the Czech Republic and Jordan, thanks to the democratic system of both countries and the spirit of tolerance and openness, can lead to better understanding, not just between the two countries themselves, but also between the Europeans and the Islamic World," he added.

On the issue of the Balkan region, the Czech Ambassador said "we welcomed and supported the moves towards a peaceful solution in the Balkans, because it is part of the world that is close to us." He pointed out that his country was concerned about the events happening in that region for security reasons and human feelings towards the population.

"We feel that the peace there is a very fragile thing. We, as a Czech Republic, wanted to help in establishing peace and to participate in it. So, Czech soldiers are part of the international peace-keeping forces in Bosnia," he said. He added that "the war in former Yugoslavia meant that you can't be sure about peace anywhere which means you have to take very seriously the security precautions."

Mr Smetanka said his country after the Warsaw Pact was

dissolved started immediately to look for security guarantees. "It's almost generally acceptable in our country that we should be member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as soon as possible because we consider it to be the functioning security structure that could grant security in Europe as a whole and that is why the Czech Republic become member of the partnership for peace program and now is very actively preparing its armed forces and the political structure to become member of NATO in the near future," he added.

On the involvement of the Czech Republic in development in the Middle East, Mr Smetanka said that the Czech Republic is trying to find ways on how to actively contribute to the Middle East peace process. "One way is by economic assistance which we feel is very important," he added.

He pointed out that his country has started a plan for economic assistance to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) through financing some projects which will be implemented by Czech Companies. He added that the Czech Republic also is part of the multi-lateral talks on the Middle East in the regional economic development group and water resources group.

"We could help in strengthening the circle of peace in the Middle East," he said. Mr Smetanka expressed his happiness to be the Czech Ambassador in Amman. "I feel very lucky to be posted in Jordan as an ambassador because my background is Middle East History and Arabic," he said. "I feel that there are good conditions to work on the bilateral relations, knowing Jordan as a country with open people and with an important position in the politics of the region. I welcome this chance to be posted for a few years here in Amman," he added.

## Levy meets with Arafat, pledges more talks

Continued from page 1

and added: "I have no doubt that what we established Tuesday will give a push to the process that is meant to bring peace to Israel and the Palestinians."

"They have certain requests from us that are dependent on their fulfilling their commitments," Netanyahu told reporters later.

Israel has a long list of what it calls "broken promises" made by Arafat and the Palestinian Authority he heads. Chief among these are claims that his administration has failed to extradite accused terrorists to Israel, has not cracked down on Islamic militants and has conducted illegal diplomatic and police activity in East Jerusalem—which both the Israelis and Palestinians claim.

Netanyahu suggested that these issues need to be resolved before Israel resumes negotiations on the final status of Gaza and the West Bank. "I think this is what we can hope to achieve at this point," he said. "I don't think we should go beyond that. Let's achieve this goal and then proceed step by step."

Palestinians have also compiled a list of grievances, foremost among them being Israeli delays in redeploying troops in Hebron, the last major West Bank city under Israeli military control. Netanyahu indicated Tuesday that discussions within his government on the redeployment would be wrapped up this week but gave no hint of when the move might take place or under what circumstances.

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### Debate over unity

Continued from page 1

will file lawsuits against some of these writers like Oriab Al Renlawi and Hamadeh Faraneh, two writers of Palestinian origin, who were also interviewed by *Shihun* newspaper.

Mr Habboul asked the court to call 14 witnesses including two former prime ministers, Mr Taher Al Masri and Mr Ahmad Obiedat, imprisoned former deputy Lieth Shbeilat, in addition to four prominent lawyers, the head of the Islamic Action Front, Dr Isahq Al Farhan, the Chief Editor of *Ad Distour* newspaper Dr Nabil Al Sharif, two columnists from the same paper: Hamadeh Faraneh and George Haddad. The lawyer included the two reporters from

*Shihun* who interviewed Al Abbadi as witnesses. These are Jihad Abu Beider and Zakariah Mahadin.

On the other side, *Shihun's* management expressed its surprise over the charges against its chief editor since Mr Habboul did not include him in his lawsuit.

"We were invited as witnesses by the plaintiff, but the prosecutor general filed a case against us," said Dr Riad Al Hroub, chairman of the board of *Shihun*.

Dr Hroub said that his paper was honest in its presentations of the four interviews it conducted in the same issue last June with four controversial figures representing both sides, [East Bank] Jordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin. ■

### A hot summer looms for government

Continued from page 1 session. Opposition parties are expected to use the issue for their own interest as it concerns all members of society. Opposition deputies consider bread a red line that the government must not overstep. The lifting of subsidies comes at a time when Jordanians feel overburdened by worsening economic conditions.

Many laws and draft laws are waiting on the agenda to be discussed by deputies in the current extraordinary session. However, the deputies' major concern will be the government's performance and bread price. If the Kabari government was able to resolve this matter successfully, then it will emerge stronger than ever.

Mr Kabari showed boldness in dealing with the bread issue. He is willing to discuss the matter with deputies and people. Nevertheless, he is under pressure because of Jordan's indebtedness, the worsening economic situation and the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This means there is no other option, except to carry on with the new strategy. ■

### Intensive diplomacy

Continued from page 1

peace process. Earlier on and in London where he underwent a minor surgery. His Majesty exchanged in phone calls with President Hosni Mubarak, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and the PNA President Yasser Arafat views on the same topic.

Arab leaders are exerting efforts to activate the peace process. There was the Arafat-Assad summit which started yesterday at Damascus. President Mubarak is expected to visit Washington soon. President Clinton on the other hand has sent messages to President Arafat and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi assuring them that everything is on the right course.

The role of France and the European Union was aimed at the resumption of negotiations between the Lebanese and the Syrians on one side and the Israelis on the other. This can lead eventually to the resumption of the final status talks between the PNA and Israel.

Arafat-Assad meeting is targeted at re-establishing Arab joint co-ordination to reach a unified strategy towards peace-making. The sticking issues related to Golan Heights, Jerusalem, south Lebanon, the settlements and the refugees are all facing the same difficulties imposed by Israel since Madrid Conference in 1990.

Observers assure that the new challenges which have resulted after the Israeli elections and the victory of the right-wing hard-line policy towards Arabs, put Arabs, particularly the surrounding states, in a critical position. Palestinian officials hinted that President Arafat will call on President Assad to release Palestinian prisoners in Syria. Mr Arafat will also brief Mr Assad on the results of his latest meeting with the Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and the Israeli proposals in relation to the withdrawal from Hebron and other sticking issues.

Observers expect the holding of a five-member Arab summit including Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. The meeting will aim at putting forward a unified Arab plan which underpins Arab rights and the so-called land-for-peace principle.

The Middle East will also witness other political activities, as the American co-ordinator of the peace process, Dennis Ross, will visit the area. He will be followed by the US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a bid to activate the peace process. Political analysts expect Arafat's visit to Syria to build a new era in Palestinian-Syrian relationship which passed through crucial stages since 1982. ■







## LURIE'S WORLD



## Our Say...

## Reform starts at home

AS THE government engages in a lengthy study of the mechanisms by which it will deliver cash compensations to its citizens once it removes bread subsidies, deputies and opposition parties gather efforts to mobilize the public against the intended moves.

The confrontation over bread subsidies, and indeed any form of subsidy, is of the classic kind. Governments feel they can no longer shoulder the increasing burden of free or heavily subsidized commodities, while the public, urged to move by political parties and popular organizations, expresses its frustration over the removal of what it now considers as a birthright. The issue of removing subsidies, necessitated by economic reforms and adjustments, becomes a political bombshell, putting governments on the defensive. Suddenly they are inundated with charges of mismanagement, corruption, submission to foreign parties, conspiracy against the haves-nots etc.

But the truth lies not in the fact that governments are usually mismanaged, not immune from corruption and are easily submissive to the demands of international creditors, but elsewhere. The reality that citizens have grown accustomed to their dependency on governments; large, overburdened, slow moving and extravagant bureaucracies. This dependency is what marks governments in the Arab world today. Ironically, this dependency does not differ from a rich country, like those in the oil-rich Gulf, to poorer ones, like those in the Levant and the Arab Maghreb.

The rise and fall of the welfare state is the biggest story all over the world today. There are examples to be studied in Europe, America and South East Asia. Big governments tend to be bad governments, suffering from imbalance budgets, huge public and foreign debts, corruption and mismanagement. They create overburdened social security systems, ailing national health programs and economies that suffer from weak growth rates, labor conflicts, high unemployment and others.

There are no secret recipes for success. But smaller governments tend to be more efficient. The road to economic reform is fraught with social upheavals and while the bread issue might be unique to the Arab world, other parts of the world have seen problems of a similar sort over the price of basic commodities, taxes and social services. In America, it is the deficit, health care and social security. In France, it is over taxes and privatization, in Germany it is over unemployment.

Our government must look beyond the issue of bread. We know and it knows that economic reform will require more painful cuts in public spending along the way. Many people will be hurt, if not over bread then it is over something else.

That's why the process of reform must be a continuous one. It must not come in sudden bursts. Many people wonder why the government did not embark on a medium-term reduction of subsidies over the years, by raising the price of bread by 10 or 20 percent every two years until the price can be floated with little damage.

On the other hand, reform must start at home and by that we mean inside the government. For people to believe in the doctor they must see him trying a sip of his own medicine.

## Mubarak says that no peace without Golan Heights

CAIRO—At their meeting, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu turned to the subject of Syria, whose peace negotiations with Israel have stalled over the fate of the Golan Heights.

Mindful that Netanyahu has publicly vowed to maintain Israeli control over the Golan, Mubarak chose his words with care. "I didn't want to push him," Mubarak recalled Sunday. "I told him, 'I don't want any answer from you.'"

But Mubarak said his message to Netanyahu was clear. "I told him, 'Look, my point of view (is) that Syria would never sign any peace treaty unless they take back their territory,'" he recalled.

Mubarak's measured comments on Syria were typical of what he said was his approach to the new Israeli prime minister, whose declarations on Middle East peace negotiations have alarmed the Arab world. As the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, Egypt is heavily invested in the idea of Arab-Israeli peace, and Mubarak is eager to avoid a rupture with Israel's new government.

The Egyptian president offered new details of his private, two-hour conversation with Netanyahu. The two had never met and their first encounter has been the focus of intense interest and speculation throughout the Arab world. Mubarak travels on Sunday to Washington, where he will share his first impressions of Netanyahu with President Clinton, among others.

Mubarak said he warned the Israeli leader of dire consequences if Israel does not take concrete steps toward a territorial settlement that satisfies the Palestinians and Syria.

"It will be very dangerous," Mubarak said. "I told him, 'Look, if you are going to look for the security first, you will reach nowhere, and terrorism will continue.' ... I had the impression he understood that."

When asked whether he outlined a timetable for progress in negotiations, Mubarak replied, "I cannot say one month, two months, three months." But he added, "by the end of this year we should make some kind of progress. The sooner the better."

# Dole is qualified but is he politically naive?

By Carrie Nello Moye  
Star US Correspondent

NO DOUBT Bob Dole is a talented, effective politician. He has accomplished much.

But it is almost incomprehensible that his campaign strategy seems to be hindering rather than helping him.

First it was a number of shoot-from-the-hip ridiculous statements crowned by his assertion that cigarettes were not really harmful additives. And that besides, milk was harmful to some people as were any number of other foods.

Next, after having resigned his seat in the Senate so that he might truly ignite his campaign, he has come up with virtually nothing, particularly a positive economic policy—which the recent gathering of Republican governors has painfully pointed out. And of course he did not attend the NAACP convention, giving reasons that leaked like a sieve.

His most recent snafu, and one that hit this columnist dead center, was in an open statement he made directly into news microphones. In defending the charge that his campaign lacked the funds to become appreciably productive, Dole replied that this was not entirely true and that in fact he himself had signed a lot of letters that were bringing in very large sums of money. Not a very tactful thing to say, particularly to those persons who had received such a letter.

You guessed it: I am one of the recipients. At first when I took the envelope from the box, I was struck that it was addressed to me in my legal name with my married name appended. Only neighbors and those who know me well know my married name. Secondly, the return address had only "Bob Dole" on the front, with the Republican Committee address on the back. For me? Junk mail perhaps? I did not think so, as the stationery was of good quality.

I could not imagine nor wait to see what was coming to me from the collective them. As I began reading, I kept looking for the punch line. But no, it was legitimate. On "behalf of Senator Connie Mack" (me??) I had been nominated for membership to the Chairman's Advisory Board and was hereby invited to the National Republican Convention in San Diego, between 11-15 August.

What was the catch? The letter continued that I would have "full guest delegate privileges at the Convention, including reserved seating, as well as an active schedule of members-only functions." Me?!

I would have a reserved/assigned seat and the proper badges to allow me into all official functions, plus additional ones specifically for the members of the Chairman's Advisory Board. Where was the catch? The rest of the letter was perfectly legitimate and I

was equally amazed. This represented a serious question of ethics to me. On the one hand, never have I been invited nor probably never shall I be invited to a national political function as a bona fide official representative. But wouldn't I feel like a fox in the hen-house? Frankly, I like Dole, but usually we are at opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to political matters. He, the conservative, is to the right of me, the moderate.

So serious a question was this to me that I asked the advice of several colleagues.

General consensus was that it would be perfectly acceptable so long as anything I wrote from the Convention would be prefaced with a statement of how I came to be there. Fair enough. On the "P.S." of my letter there was an "800" number for me to

call if I wished to have further details. Naturally I did. My first question was who on earth had nominated me. The answer was a very diplomatic, "Someone has noticed you in the community..."

The articulate young man with whom I was speaking went on to verify all the privileges et cetera I would have, noting that post Convention we (the Advisory Committee members) would meet in Washington about five times a year.

But where was the catch? Following his last statement I asked the rhetorical question, "All at my own expense, I suppose." To that he replied, "Oh yes. And maybe I should tell you that there is a \$5,000 membership fee."

So... The catch at last. It really did not bother me very much because as everyone knows, if it sounds too good to be true... Additionally, everyone also knows that all's fair in love, war and politics. But when I saw Presidential Contender Dole speak the words that he had signed letters that were bringing in a large sum of money, I was a bit incensed.

We all know shenanigans happen: we all know it is not difficult to be suckered into something. But most of us prefer to think that there is a more substantial reason behind being selected for something, especially something so important as officially attending a national political convention.

Of course the most cynical persons will say very quickly that elections have become a matter of money anyway. But I continue to believe that the majority of United States citizens still feel that with effort they can contribute talents rather than money and exert a degree of influence upon what we as a nation are doing. But ex-Senator Bob Dole was bluntly truthful. He was signing letters to bring in money. No mention was made of receiving thoughtful input or trying to gather groups for brainstorming sessions. Just money.

Dole is too canny a politician to make such a blatant statement. Yet so very many of our politicians have foot-in-mouth disease.



## Why the West fears Islam

# The enemy within

Touneeta Oubari

WHEN ONE examines the West's fear of Islam, and tries to relate it to the reasons usually given—Muslim fundamentalism, militancy, radicalism, terrorism, totalitarianism—it is difficult, if not impossible, to justify this fear on the basis of reasons given.

One has to believe, however, given all the facts and expertise available to the West, that the fear has to be rational. What is this fear that causes enemies of the Muslim world to play subtly on the theme of the Crusades in order to demonize Islam and Muslims?

Let us first examine what it is not, before we draw our conclusion as to the real reason why the West fears Islam. The fear of Muslim fundamentalism, militancy, radicalism, terrorism, totalitarianism, and the West's discovery of the "rogue states," appeared quite conveniently with the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Western governments, and particularly the US, had to either undergo massive shifts in spending, a painful and unwelcome prospect for the defense establishment, or find new justification for continuing high levels of military expenditures.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies calculates that the \$262 billion US defense budget accounts for about 37 percent of global military expenditures. Russia, Japan, and China each will spend about \$80 billion, \$42 billion, and \$7 billion. The six "rogue states"—Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, North Korea—have a combined annual military budget of \$15 billion.

According to Asimov's *Chronology of the World*, at one stage in its history, the then military power, England, spent only twice as much as the next two biggest spenders combined (a novel way to introduce competition and efficiency in the defense sector).

Given the paltry expenditures of all the "rogue states" combined, even after correcting for differences in costs, one has to believe that either the Western military sector is several or-

ders of magnitude less efficient than that of the rogue states, or that the "rogue states" are no match, militarily, for the West. Muslim terrorists should not be a major fear.

Far more acts of terrorism and violent crime in the US, according to government statistics, are committed by non-Muslims than Muslims. And if Muslims do pose a terrorist threat to the US, one hears little discussion of what it is that the terrorists really want.

Perhaps, all they want is for the West to stop interfering in their countries, in ways that we would never tolerate in the US. Islamic totalitarianism, an oxymoron to anyone with even a

who believe in the one God, and Jews, Christians, and others are Muslims.

Fundamentalism is defined to terms of Christian thinking. There is no parallel in Islam which stresses the use of reason and logic. Absent a definition, the label Islamic fundamentalism serves only to obscure issues, rather than to resolve them. Meanwhile, the Christian Coalition, and the Zionists and their biblical claim to Palestine appear fundamentalist to many; yet both are courted by US politicians, and not viewed as a threat.

One can go on eliminating Western arguments against Islam and Muslims. Eventually,

**"...We have about 50 percent of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population... Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity... To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality... We should cease to talk about vague and...unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization."**

rudimentary knowledge of Islam, should not be a Western concern.

A Muslim ruler may be totalitarian, but then his rule would not be Islamic. Furthermore, the Western record on supporting totalitarian Muslim regimes—Iran under the Shah, Iraq before the Gulf War—and doing business with non-democratic regimes—China, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia—speaks for itself.

As for Islamic fundamentalism, Islamic law is based upon the Quran, examples and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, analogical deduction, consensus among the learned, and individual reasoning. Strict interpretation of the Prophet's words leads to the conclusion that Islam is the religion of all

one has to ask, what then is the source of the West's fear of Islam and Muslims? The late Marshall G. S. Hodgson, in *Reinventing World History*, states: "Islam's conscious hopes for a godly world order represent one of the most remarkable undertakings in world history and because its less self-conscious general cultural heritage is laden with human values." Muslims see the West beset with broken families, violent crime, drugs. They see a society divided by race, religion, and huge disparities in income. They long for a peaceful life in which they may provide for the basic needs of their families, and enjoy the respect due to all mankind regardless of their race, religion, position, or wealth.

These Muslims see their goals for a more just and compassionate society thwarted by a corrupt Muslim elite whose primary purpose in life appears to be the accumulation of wealth and power, regardless of the cost to their fellow human beings.

They see these elites, who govern not by consensus as Islam prescribes, permitting outside powers to exploit their country while they derive few benefits, and find themselves subordinated by Western influences driving them down the troubled road taken by the West. They see few opportunities to earn a living because most opportunities are withheld for the elites and their sycophants. And they see these elites remaining silent when their faith, which is about all they have left, is denigrated in the propaganda which serves to maintain these elites.

These Muslim elites' natural allies are the defense establishment and the neoconservatives. Islam's mandate for justice and compassion opposes the primary objective of these neoconservatives who seek to follow policies outlined in 1948 by "the leading dove and peace prize winner" Mr. George Kennan, for the US Department of State. In his top secret Policy Planning Study 23 Mr. Kennan stated in part:

"...We have about 50 percent of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population... Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity... To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality... We should cease to talk about vague and...unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization."

To avoid exposure, these neoconservatives and their allies in the defense establishment, spurred by the enemy within, divert attention by demonizing Islam and Muslims, thereby fanning the fires of bigotry and raising unrealistic fears among the people of the West.

## Netanyahu Travelling

AFTER HIS return from Washington, where Mr Netanyahu spelled out his government's position to an increasingly immobile and elections-bound American administration, he turned his attention to Egypt, the first Arab country to break the taboo and sign peace with Israel.

Of course, the visit of the Israeli prime minister to Cairo, was not to reestablish a historical precedent. It was due to the fact that Egypt has been playing an important intermediary role with Syria and the Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel.

The recent Egyptian rumblings regarding his pronouncements on peace, increased the urgency for a Cairo visit. But what actually has taken place in the Egyptian-Israeli talks is plenty of candor and mutual appreciation.

It seems that the Likud leader is more conciliatory in private, than his public statements would lead us to believe, that is of course if one can ever pin Mr Netanyahu to any firm position in the myriad of mercurial and elusive policy declarations.

His next stop is expected to be Amman where it is not scepticism that he will be met with but concern about the peace process. But what is it that Mr Netanyahu can tell the Jordanians, which is different from what he told the Americans and Egyptians? Clearly, it might be little difficult at this early stage of his career to force the Israeli premier beyond the usual statements of rhetoric, but Jordan has to tell Mr Netanyahu what it expects from its co-signatory.

The Israelis can be as elusive as they like. But Jordan must decide on how it will proceed in the next stage of peace building, and inform the Israelis, frankly of the negative elements to their approach about a lasting peace.

Above all, Jordan must utilize all its diplomatic skills to secure the interests of the Kingdom above and before all other considerations. Our Syrian and Palestinian brothers have their own independent concerns from our particular peace agreement with Israel. But just as multilateral negotiations are not an adequate substitute for bilateral ones, the same criterion stands for the fact that the bilateral agreement with Israel is not an adequate substitute for comprehensive peace.

Jordan will have to activate its most important role to play the final achievement of a peace settlement for all. Undoubtedly, Jordan has affirmed its support for the creation of an independent Palestinian state on an independent territory; it also supports wholeheartedly the return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

But Jordan cannot sit on its laurels and behave as if everything has been accomplished. The UN resolutions regarding the Palestinian question are still a sad reminder that the Palestinian people are still refugees, and their occupied lands are still Jordanian Occupied Territories.

Albeit, life has moved on since those days, but still, the Madrid legitimacy is still built on those resolutions. How are such technicalities to be resolved if Jordan allows itself to be bypassed by any comprehensive peace formula?

Mr Netanyahu understands well Palestinian demands for their national aspirations. But he must understand that Jordan is the most important in the peace triumvirate involving the Palestinians, Israel, and Jordan.

Peace is not just about property and real estate, though when negotiating for territorial sovereignty inevitably the issues are reduced to that. A gentle reminder, however, is the question of the holy shrines which has still to be determined by all concerned parties; most of all Jordan.

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Business  
scene

■ The Jordanian Dead Sea Salt Industries Co., distributed JD 1,197 million of its profits for 1995. It is circulating JD 814,1 thousand to strengthen its financial position. The company was established in 1994 at a paid-up capital of JD 60 million to exploit salts from the Dead Sea.

■ Japan is expected to offer Jordan \$90 million loans at favourable conditions, sources at the donor countries stated in their last meeting at Paris. Donor states are following World Bank recommendations which is pleased with the performance of the Jordanian economy. Jordan has now a healthy balance of payment, a decline in inflation and lower deficit. However, the jobless rate is still at 15%.

■ "Ready Mix Concrete," a well-known British company established in 1934, is to build the first mix concrete plant in Jordan called "Al Ramz for Concrete Industries," at Al Mughabineh. German technology was installed to monitor the rate of the concrete mix in the plant through computerized equipment. The Ready Mix Concrete Co., has more than 70 years of experience and 17 branches all over the world. Its plant in Amman will be number 18. Its total sales for 1995 were about \$7 billion.

■ Sources at the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) said that the Bank had financed projects to the tune of 143 loans with JD 20.93 million in 1995. However, these loans were down by 2.9% compared with 1994. The IDB attributed this fall to the economic conditions and the state of anxiety and caution as well as new restrictions adopted by the Bank on limiting loans to 20% for investment projects. In 1995, total finances for industrial projects were JD 15.45 million, JD 4.9 million for tourism projects and JD 58,000 for services. By the end of 1995, total loans approved by the Bank since its foundation reached 3305 valued at JD 362.09 million. Among these loans, 24 were cancelled (at JD 4.2 million) and other were cut.

Foreign  
Exchange

Wednesday, 24 JULY 1996

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.0994	1.1049
DM	0.4677	0.4700
SR	0.5666	0.5694
FRF	0.1380	0.1387
YEN (100)	0.6424	0.6456
DEL	0.4165	0.4186
LIT (100)	0.0461	0.0463

Jordan Bank's performance in 1995  
Monetary stability, profits and mergers

AMMAN (Star)—The performance of banks in this country was very healthy in 1995. They recorded high profits. The top institutions were the Arab Bank, Cairo-Amman Bank and the Housing Bank.

Although the Central Bank of Jordan rose interest rates to support monetary stability and restrain credit expansion of commercial banks, these banks have achieved good results for their shareholders.

■ In 1995, the Central Bank issued deposit certificates of JD 320 million at an interest rate of 9.25%-9.75% in a bid to absorb liquidity in the domestic market.

On the other hand, the Amman Financial Market suf-

fered from sharp losses as reflected in the bank's investment portfolios, despite the economic growth in 1995 which exceeded 5%.

The Central Bank called Jordanian banks to raise their paid-up capital to JD 20 million by the end of 1997, in order to confront economic and banking challenges of the peace era. Some banks increased rights of their shareholders, and others started to merge in response to the Central Bank requirements.

The year 1995 also witnessed a heated competition between banks to attract deposits and clients. Total assets of Jordanian Banks were up from JD 7528 million in 1994 to JD 8430 million in 1995. Foreign

assets rose from JD 1682 million in 1994 to JD 1883 million in 1995.

Reserves and allocations at Jordanian banks recorded a hike from JD 342 million in 1994 to JD 437 million in 1995.

Deposits of the private sector took the highest share, as they increased from JD 3300 million in 1994 to JD 3538 million in 1995.

The Central Bank pressed clients to liquidate their deposits in foreign currency and cover their loans in the dinar to support foreign assets that form a cover which protects the dinar against other currencies.

As a result, interest rates at some banks reached 15% com-

pared with 10% to 13%.

Some banks offered weekly and monthly awards for saving accounts including cash money, golden cases, cars and electric equipments to attract low-costly deposits.

■ Jordan National Bank: It was established 40 years ago. In 1995 it made profits of 14% says the JNB director, Abdul Kader Tash. He points out that there is a technical study to merge with the Business Bank. Rights of its shareholders rose by 7.6% to reach JD 38.7 million in 1995. Total budget was up by 6.8% as total assets were JD 424 million.

Branches increased to 34 with seven new offices in Jordan. The bank also re-opened branches in Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah. Its branches in Lebanon recorded a hike in deposits of 14%.

■ Jordan Arab Investment Bank: Its overall performance was moderate in 1995. It has assets of JD 216 million, but its profits increased slightly from JD 2.64 million in 1994 to JD 2.46 million in 1995.

This year, the bank plans to launch new branches at Aqaba and Petra and increase client's deposits. Its management aims at achieving new profits, developing banking services, increasing the AT systems and training its cadres.

■ Cairo-Amman Bank: It had its records in 1995 as its profits increased by 31 percent to JD 6.4 million as compared to JD 4.9 million in 1994. Assets rose from JD 426 million to JD 600 million, show-

Prices on AFM stabilize  
because of increase in  
market activity

AMMAN (Star)—The stock market has not been stable for the previous month. The share indicator has fallen sharply after the 29 May Israeli elections, but last week trading at the Amman Financial Market more or less stabilized and share prices took an upward trend. An atmosphere of confidence and optimism prevailed as evidenced by the high level of activity. Observers say this was because of positive developments in the Jordanian economy as international economic institutions gave Jordan the thumbs up. Soft loans and pledged international projects were well received by traders on the AFM.

The volume of dealings was up by 47% compared with the previous week to reach JD 5.7 million. The share of the Housing Bank and Dar Al Dawa was 35% of this total.

Daily dealings averages were JD 1.15 million. The ratio of one transaction was nearly JD 1450. The official price index was up by 2.4% to close at 138.43 points. The bank's index was up by 4.8%, due to a rise in the share price of the Housing Bank which jumped by 66 fils while the share of the Arab Bank was up by JD 4,500 fils.

GoldStar was in the top rank of eight "golden groups" for the week, recording a rise of 27%. This was followed by Al-Mawared Co., Housing Bank, Livestock Co., Pharmaceutical Centre, Pharmaceutical Supplies, United Engineering Co., and Rum Co.

"Golden" is the expression given to companies which register a rise of more than 10%.

On the other hand, some companies recorded a decline. In the top comes Al Ahliyah for Trade Centers which marked a fall of 21.7%. The Central Co., for Commerce also recorded a fall of 16.4%.

Demand on shares of industrial companies was up by 65% of total dealing, followed by the banks and financial companies at 27.9%. Then comes the shares of service companies at 6.7% followed by the insurance sector at 0.4%.



## Anxiety dominates local market

AMMAN (Star)—Jordanians and the local market are going through an unstable experience which resulted from latest official statements to rise bread prices. If implemented, the bread increase will lead to a new economic dilemma for the market.

People are still awaiting from their deputies to take action. However, sources indicate that the hike will be valid from next month creating a sensitive situation, as prices of other goods will likely rise between 50 percent to a 100 percent.

Almost all foodstuffs that have a flour compound are vanishing from the market shelves since the statements to rise bread prices to 250 fils per kilo were announced. The majority of Jordanian citizens put the blame on those who trade in flour; they are

now hoarding it in expectation of a quick profit.

They are abusing their position to blackmail citizens. Although official sources are warning against any attempt at stocking food commodities, shops and supermarkets are hiding flour. People are appealing to the government to take determined action against violators. The Consumer Protection Society has stated that a sharp increase will emerge after the issue of the bread increase goes into effect. Thus living expenses which are already high, will rise to 13%. The society's chairman, Dr. Mohammed Obaidat says "The Jordanian citizen, with his present income, cannot afford the price hikes, which will add to other additional burdens."

Regional Bank increase  
world interest in area

By Alan Spence

ANYONE LOOKING for new business in the Middle East region's slowly emerging private sector has watched the birth of the Middle East Development Bank (MEDB) with a keen eye.

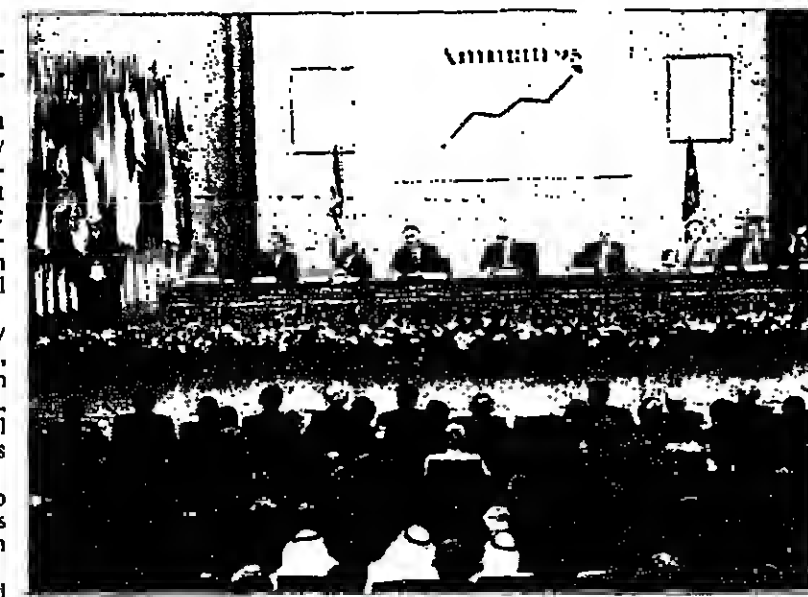
Some 2,000 international companies attended the multi-lateral institution's conception at the Casablanca Middle East/North Africa (MENA) economic summit in late 1994. This was given a further boost in the Amman Economic Summit that was held in October 1995. And despite a protracted gestation period, many more will be seeking to link into a potentially vast stream of infrastructure-related projects generated during the bank's infancy.

"There is no scarcity of projects," says Gordon Schurr, director of international affairs and external relations at the Bank of Israel, which has played an important bank seat role in getting the MEDB off the ground.

The enthusiasm of the MEDB's most active shareholders to build a new framework for co-operation and private sector activity is based on the need to develop infrastructure, reduce public sector participation and create jobs to underpin a steady middle class peace initiative.

"Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Palestine have submitted large lists of schemes, many of these tied into the region's largest problem, the lack of sufficient water resources," Mr Schurr says.

But for all the demand for capital, just how the MEDB will function remains unclear. "The idea is to create an institution similar to an investment bank, focusing on the private sector and helping to consolidate the privatization process in some Arab countries," Mr



Amman Economic Summit kick starts regional bank

Schurr.

Strong support for the institution—envisioned as a conduit for new sources of private investment using its Triple A-rated borrowing leverage in global capital markets—has been pledged by the US, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Russia, China, Israel and most of its Arab neighbors.

Agreement to participate has also come from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, all of whom hope that the trickle of Maghreb private sector projects led by Morocco's Jorf Lasfar power station concession will translate into a flood with leverage provided by institutions such as the MEDB.

But most schemes remain on the drawing board while differences remain among shareholders. Not all of the latter have maintained the momentum shown at the Autumn 1995 MENA summit in Amman, which agreed on an institution capitalized at \$5 billion, with and \$1.25 billion paid-up.

But progress has since been made. A late-November meeting in Cairo approved the MEDB's initial articles of association. A 10-member transition team was set up to create the institution's structure and operations, but the team, led by the US, whose 21 percent stake makes it the MEDB's biggest shareholder and gives Washington the right of veto on key issues, has yet to start work.

This is partially due to the

lack of a headquarters in Cairo, where the bank is to be based. Resurgent conflict between Lebanon and Israel has not helped. But arguably, the biggest problem is foot-dragging in the US Congress on approving the \$262 million allocation. Neither has the EU been quick to come up with its share of the cash. To date, fewer than expected commitments from member states have contributed to a shortfall of some 25 percent in subscriptions to the MEDB's capital.

The MEDB's critics argue that sufficient funding sources for the region exist, including facilities to be provided to back the EU's creation of a free-trade area in the Mediterranean. Some Ecu4.65 billion has been allocated for this in 1996-2000, with the prospect of a similar level of European investment Bank loans for the region.

Development finance has also poured in from the World Bank, which is increasing its

lending to the MENA region over and above the \$1 billion provided in 1994, and the EIB, which has offered Ecu300 million over the next two years to Gaza and the West Bank and recently extended a \$300 million loan facility for the \$1.3 billion Middle East oil refinery project in Egypt.

The concept of placing more of the area's projects into the private sector is supported by the World Bank's International Finance Corporation where officials say they see the MEDB as a complementary institution, rather than a rival to its own ventures in the MENA region.

Despite concern at the plethora of institutions working to underpin Middle East peace, such as the region's demands that the MEDB could yet play a leading role.

Financial Times

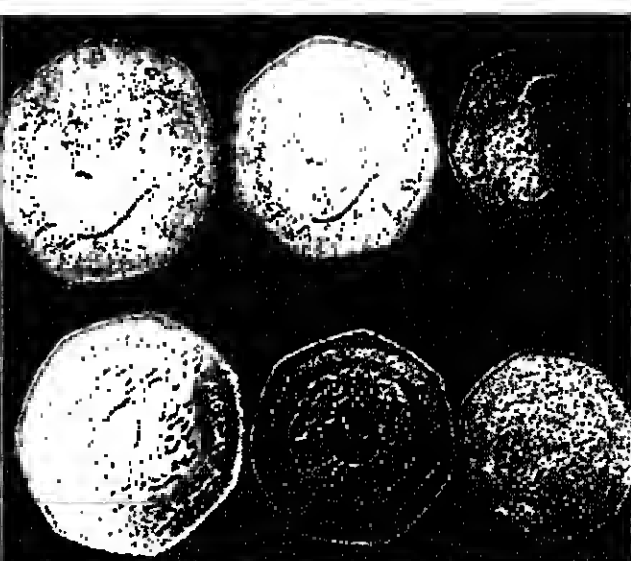
New coins offered by  
Jordan Central Bank

AMMAN (Star)—New coins were offered by the Jordan Central Bank. These are of one dinar, half dinar and quarter dinar denominations. They join the existing coins and other banknotes that are currently in circulation.

These coins have distinct features: In the case of the one dinar, it is made up of nickel (55 percent), zinc (24.5 percent) and copper (70 percent). The coin weighs 12.4 grams, and is 32 millimeter in diameter.

The half dinar weighs six grams, and 29 millimeter in diameter. In the case of the new quarter dinar coin, it weighs 7.5 grams, and 26.5 millimeters in diameter. The half and quarter dinar coins already exist, but the new ones have different inscriptions.

On one side of the coins there is a portrait of HM King Hussein, with the name of "Al Hussein Bin Talal" on the right side, and "Monarch of the Ha-



shemite Kingdom" on the left. Both are written in Arabic.

On the other side, there is a figure of the denomination in the center surrounded by Islam-

ic carvings, written in English and Arabic together with the Hijri and Gregorian date of issue and "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in English.

World Bank investment grow  
in Middle East

WASHINGTON—According to the World Bank, new lending commitments by the Bank to the Middle East and North Africa in fiscal year 1996 are up by 63 percent.

World Bank figures show bank disbursements to Middle Eastern and North African countries reached a high of \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 1996 compared to \$1.2 billion in the previous year. New lending commitments from the Bank to these countries totaled about \$1.7 billion in FY96, up from \$999 million in FY95.

The lending figure breakdown shows that the World Bank is adjusting its services to meet the new demands of its member countries at a time of

rapid global changes. In a July 19 press conference at World Bank headquarters in Washington, Kemal Dervis, the Bank's Vice President for the Middle East, reported that the Bank is working closely with clients to meet their needs and smooth their passage into the global economy.

"The last fiscal year has been reasonably successful thanks to the emphasis by the Bank and our partners in the region on implementation issues," Kemal told reporters.

"However, he cautioned, 'this is only a start given the region's needs, especially in infrastructure improvement, water scarcity alleviation, and employment generation. Much

more has yet to be done to accelerate growth and help increase investments."

New lending commitments from the World Bank to developing countries worldwide totaled \$21.4 billion in fiscal year 1996, which ended June 30. According to World Bank press reports, those figures include both the market-rate loans made by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the concessional loans made to the world's poorest countries through the International Development Association (IDA).

The total compares with \$22.5 billion in FY95 and \$20.8 billion in FY94.

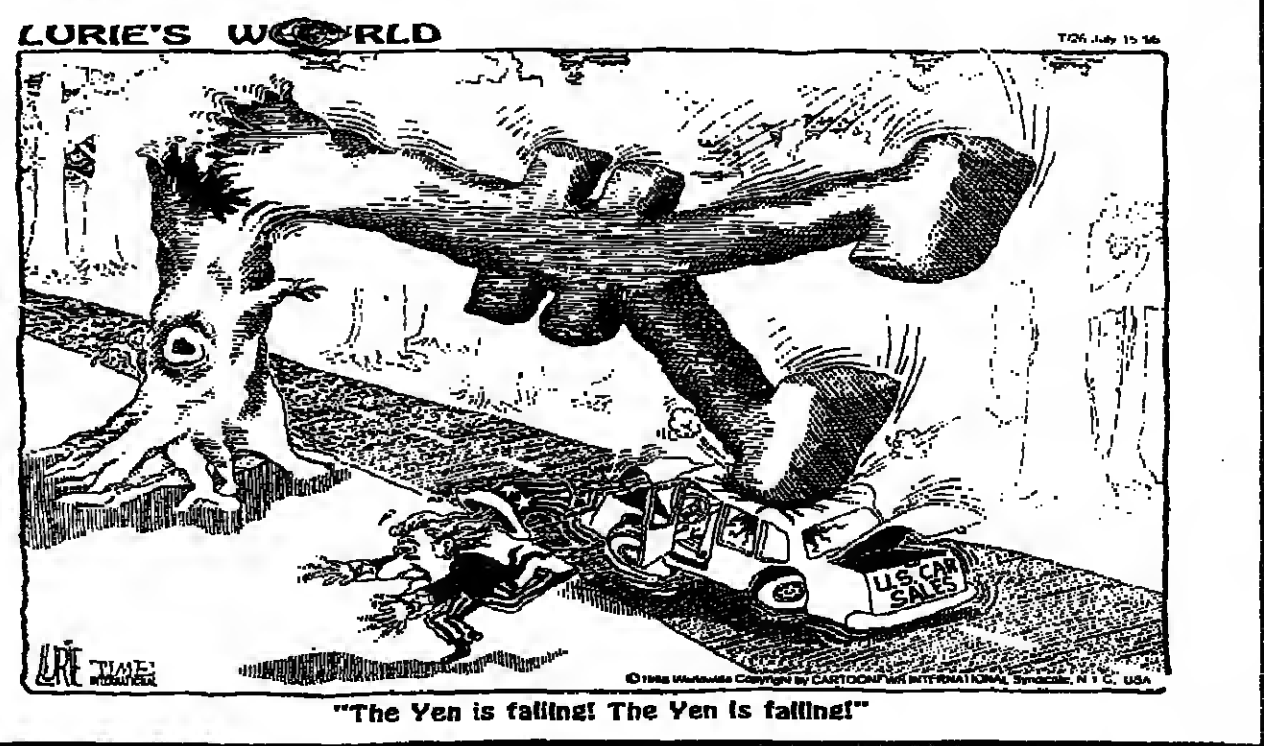
## MARKET WATCH

20-23 JULY

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SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
+ Amman Investment Bank 6.45 + Livestock & Poultry 6.00 + United Engineering 5.88	+ General Central Storage 5.99 + United Engineering 5.36 + Middle East Complex 5.33	+ Middle East Complex 5.06 + Arab Paper Industry 3.17 + United Savings Bank 2.86	+ Arab Insurance 5.00 + Arab Aluminum 3.36 + Jordan Ceramic 2.99
- Jordan Rock Wool Indus. 4.59	+ Universal Seas Insurance 5.00 + Jordan Selpho Chemical 5.26 + Holy Land Insurance 5.17	+ Alifa Trade Centers 5.17 + Jordan Bank 5.05 + Arab Financial Investment 4.69	+ Jordan International Trade 5.13 + Middle East Pharm 3.08 + National Plastic 3.45
General Price Pointer 140.680	139.300	139.030	138.830
Trade Volume 1003316	914560	564698	848820
Stock Volume 868642	882646	552037	677128
Highest Traded Stocks			
+ Livestock & Poultry 108.755	+ Livestock & Poultry 120.756	+ Arab Paper 102.946	+ Middle East Complex 224.512

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## Palestine Post

### Economic unity between Jordan, Palestine and Israel

■ The former Jordanian prime minister and head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, Dr. Abdel Salam Majali, expected the establishment of an economic union between Jordan, Palestine and Israel. If this federation exists, there will be no borders and economic barriers between the three countries. But their political entities won't be changed, Majali added.

This will help create a free trade market that allows transfer of manpower, exchange of skills, expertise and technology among the three countries.

Majali assured that Iraq will certainly play a regional role in the Middle East, although we have no fixed and definite date for this. Comprehensive peace won't be achieved without Iraq, he added. Speaking on the problems facing the economic situations in this country, Dr. Majali said that Jordan is improving and developing its economic establishments. Economic advancement is basic to peace, he said.

### Qatar cancels commercial bureau at Tel Aviv

■ The Qatari Foreign Minister, Sheikh Hamid Bin Jasim Al Thani, called on Israel to re-evaluate its hard-line stance towards the land-for-peace principle. Because of Benjamin Netanyahu's policy, Qatar decided to cancel the inauguration of a Qatari commercial interests bureau in Tel Aviv. Neither is it receiving an Israeli delegation to discuss further trade exchange between Qatar and Israel. Sheikh Hamid assured. Promoting co-operation with Israel now depends on Netanyahu's attitude towards the peace process, Sheikh Hamid added.

### Health protocol between Jordan and Palestine

■ A health Co-operation Protocol was signed in Amman recently by the Health Minister, Dr. Aref Al Bazayneh, and the Palestinian Health Minister, Dr. Riyadh Al Za'noon.

The agreement stresses the training of technical cadres especially from the Palestinian side; exchange of technical expertise, data and health procedures is especially provided for in the protocol.

Beneficiaries from this protocol are the people of Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem (in future), Dr. Al Za'noon said. Cases that require complicated surgery or medical treatment that is not available in Palestine will be taken to Jordanian hospitals as the protocol stipulates.

Furthermore, there are plans to co-operate in drug tests procedures and exporting pharmaceuticals by Jordanian companies.

### Jordan-Israeli water committee talks reach a deadlock

■ In contrast to what was agreed upon in the Jordan-Israeli peace accord, Israel is refusing to provide the latter with an additional 50 million cubic metres of water.

The Jordanian-Israeli Water Committee has so far failed to reach an agreement. This issue is still unresolved and is now left to the forthcoming visit by the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to Jordan that is expected on 29 July.

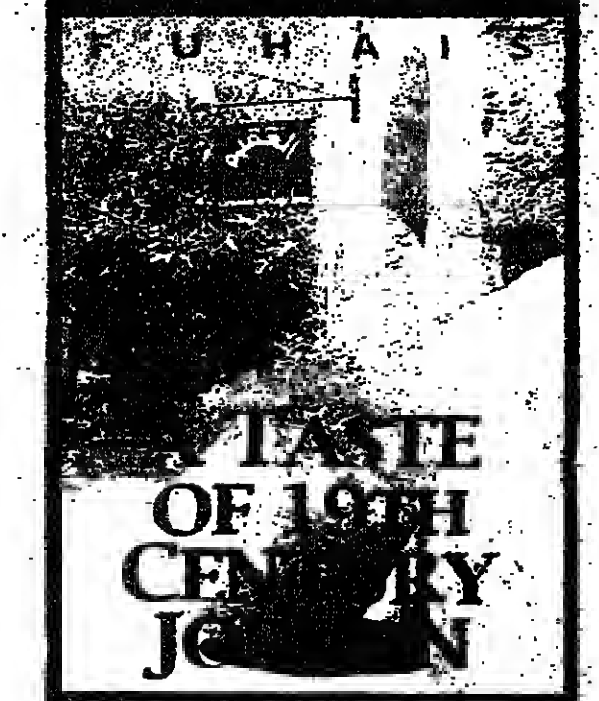
### Unsatisfied with Netanyahu economic policy

■ A recent opinion poll indicated that the majority of Israelis are displeased with the economic policy of their new Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. About 55 percent of the group participating in the poll (515 Jewish) told the *Ma'ariv* daily that they are against Netanyahu's policy, 23 percent were satisfied and 22 percent didn't express an attitude. The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange fell by 20 points since the election of the Likud Prime Minister in the 29 May elections. Last week shares gained four points.

## JORDAN TODAY

TOURISM-CULTURE-ENTERTAINMENT

JULY 1996



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## Israel, Hezbollah relive agony of prisoners exchange

By Glenn Frankel  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

JERUSALEM—In a ritual that was both solemn and macabre, Israel last Sunday received the bodies of two of its long-missing soldiers from the Hezbollah guerrilla movement in exchange for the remains of 123 Arab fighters. The Islamic guerrillas also traded captives with Israeli-backed Christian militia forces in southern Lebanon.

An Israeli honor guard greeted a German military plane that brought the coffins containing the bodies of Yosef Fink and Rahabim Alsheikh, captured in 1986, to a military airfield in central Israel shortly after noon. Meanwhile, 17 trucks of the International Committee for the Red Cross ferried 123 coffins from the Israeli-Lebanese border to Kfar Tibnit, a village in southern Lebanon.

The exchange—said to be the biggest involving bodies and prisoners between Israeli and Muslim guerrillas since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982—was overseen

by Bernd Schmidbauer, a top security aide to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who brokered the deal over three tense months. It had the clear backing of Syria, which commands the parts of Lebanon where Hezbollah's command centers and training bases are located, and of Iran, which provides funds and weapons to the group, which is fighting to oust Israeli occupation forces from southern Lebanon.

But while there were expressions of gratitude on both sides, no one suggested that the exchange augured a breakthrough between some of the Middle East's most bitter and longstanding enemies. Israel has held the 170-square-mile swath along its border with Lebanon since withdrawing from other parts of that country in 1985. It considers the territory a buffer zone and insists that withdrawal of its forces could occur only as part of an overall agreement with Hezbollah and its Syrian overseers—which appears distant at best.

Nor was there any word on the fate of Ron Arad, a cap-

tured flight navigator who Israel believes may still be alive, nor on the prospect of his being exchanged for two Israeli-held captives, Hezbollah cleric Abdel Karim Obeid and Islamic militant Mustafa Diriani, both abducted from Lebanon by Israeli commandos.

"We hope it signals a change of attitude on the part of Hezbollah (but) it's too early to say," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a press conference about last Sunday's exchange. "There is no question about an Iranian decision to go ahead with this particular exchange. Whether that signifies a broader change I cannot say."

Schmidbauer expressed optimism that further exchanges could take place. "I'm sure we can achieve much if we have an opportunity to build trust with the partners," he told reporters here. But he said it would take "goodwill on both sides to get results."

Families on both sides of the border reacted with a combination of deep sadness that



A Lebanese girl hugs her brother who returned from an Israeli prison camp

their worst fears were finally confirmed and relief that their long wait was over. "We had hoped that maybe, by some sort of miracle, that it was not right," Yosef Fink's mother, Hadassah Fink, told the Associated Press. "Now it is very final and we cannot pretend anymore."

In Kfar Tibnit relatives of the dead fighters gathered among turbaned clerics and guerrillas to receive the conveyance of coffins. "My wounds were opened anew," the mother of Mahmoud Haj Ali, killed two years ago, told *Reuters*. "But at least he is back and we will bury him near our house."

Fink and Alsheikh, then both 20, were captured in an ambush of a military convoy by Hezbollah guerrillas on Feb. 17, 1986, during a patrol in the Israeli-occupied portion of Lebanon. After soldiers recovered their bullet-riddled jeep, Israeli officials presumed the two had been wounded in the attack. But whether they died from wounds they suffered or were killed by their captors has never been clear. Israel received proof of their death in 1991.

Besides the return of Arad, Israel wants the remains of three soldiers captured and presumed killed during the

first days of the 1982 invasion.

For years, Israel has interred the bodies of Hezbollah guerrillas in numbered graves in a site in northern Israel. Over the weekend bulldozers worked steadily at the cemetery, disinterring the metal coffins and depositing them in awaiting trucks.

Along with the dead came the living: Hezbollah freed 17 members of the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army (SLA), while the SLA released 45 prisoners from the notorious Khiam prison it operates in the Israeli-held territory. The SLA also delivered the remains of eight

By Nicholas Goldberg  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia—Twenty-five years after he seized power and began a brutal eight-year reign of terror, Idi Amin walks the streets of Jeddah a free man—a celebrity even.

In a local grocery store, the overweight former dictator shops for yogurt and milk, pushing his own cart, wearing his long white Saudi-style robe. People come up to him in the aisles cheerily and shake his hand, asking, "How are you, Mr. President?" He smiles and politely answers.

"He killed a lot of people. He ate human flesh," says the manager on duty at the "Safe-way," a fellow African who says he sees Amin often in the aisles. "But it's people's nature to forget."

For those who have forgotten, Idi Amin Dada became president of Uganda in January 1971, when he seized power in a coup. During the following eight years, he allegedly murdered an estimated 300,000 of his own people. In 1972, he exiled all 70,000 ethnic Asians from Uganda. He caused an international incident when he nearly executed a British lecturer for describing him as a "village tyrant." He proclaimed himself national heavyweight boxing champion.

Twenty years ago last week, he collaborated with hijackers from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine when they rerouted an Air France plane to the Ugandan airport at Entebbe. The jet was stormed by Israeli commandos and the passengers were



Amin

released during a firefight.

Despite his troubling history, Amin is not living in shame, humiliation and fear in some backwater slum. He lives in a large, attractive marble villa in a somewhat rundown section of this oil-rich city, apparently with about nine of his 43-or-so children. About 68 years old, he is a practicing Muslim whose daughters are covered, head to toe, in black. He goes to the local Bukhshan mosque here every week for prayers.

Amin grants few interviews. When two American reporters appeared at the gates of his villa asking to speak with him,

they were summarily dismissed, first by the president's son, and later by a threatening security guard, who promised trouble if they reappeared.

"This is the end," said a voice over the loudspeaker outside Amin's home. "He's not here."

Later, a I am call from an aide named Abdullah offered the information that Amin was away, in the capital city of Riyadh.

One of the few recent interviews Amin did give, appearing in the *Sunday Telegraph* in England three years ago, was with a former foreign correspondent who struck up a friendship with Amin in Uganda during his tenure.

It was written during a visit to Jeddah in which the two recollected the good old days when they each ate a "hunk of roast hippo liver" in the Rwenzori mountains. In Jeddah, the two "mooch around town" in Amin's white Chevrolet Caprice.

Although Amin became a joke in his day—a Hollywood parody of an African dictator—he was, in fact, a deadly dangerous man who brought

pain, devastation and bankruptcy to his own country and his own people. Like many former dictators, including Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti, Amin was allowed to leave peacefully by the Ugandan exiles and their Tanzanian supporters who overthrew his regime in 1979.

A guerrilla group, the West Nile Bank Front, is fighting in Uganda against president Yoweri Museveni. Dozens have been recently killed by the group, which Museveni says is backed by Amin.

Amin has denied any connection, and said in a brief interview with a Ugandan

paper in November that he had little expectation of being granted amnesty to return to Uganda. "It would be ridiculous for the people who keep calling me a buffoon and a dictator to invite me back," he said.

It appears, therefore, that he will stay in Jeddah. ■

## Despite his past, Idi Amin lives free in Saudi Arabia

### Sudan could soon join the oil-rich states

KHARTOUM—Oil in Sudan's Upper Nile area is to start at the end of this month according to sources in the Gulf Petroleum Sudan Company Ltd.

The Secretary in charge of oil prospecting, Gen. Salah Wahbi, told a local daily newspaper that three oil wells in the area will begin lifting the crude.

Wahbi told the *Al Ingath Al Watan*, that the Adar Yiel field held some 170 million barrels of crude. Up to 60 million barrels of this amount can be drilled by using the conventional methods.

He said at the experimental stage the field will be producing 5,000 barrels of crude per day.

Sudan, he said, was negotiating with five foreign companies for oil prospecting in the country.

He said another five companies have been prospecting since 1993 in the Higlig field in west Sudan, in association with the state-run petroleum company.

The field is expected to produce a minimum of 10,000 barrels of crude per day. He said production could be raised to a maximum of 25,000 barrels per day.

Wahbi said the Wehda oil field, in the

south, has a reserve of 660 million barrels. Of this, 150 million barrels can be extracted at a rate of 25,000 barrels a day.

Production in this field would start by the end of the rainy season, when oil wells would be fully linked to a storage facility, being constructed by the Canadian state petroleum company.

The Wehda (Unity) oil field is the biggest in Sudan. So far, he said, some 19 wells have been sunk there.

Overall, some 45,000 barrels of crude would be pumped daily from these fields when Adar Yiel and Wehda start production.

Sudanese President Omar El Bashir said recently his country spends 80 percent of its export earnings on the importation of petroleum products. This adds up to some 360 million US dollars annually.

Khartoum imported the bulk of its oil from Gulf states until 1990, when this was stopped in reaction to Sudan's support for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he invaded Kuwait. ■

PANA

## Freeh discusses access to detainees in Riyadh

By R. Jeffrey Smith  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

WASHINGTON—FBI Director Louis J. Freeh is in Saudi Arabia to seek US access to several individuals who have been detained by the Saudi government on suspicion of involvement in last month's deadly bombing of a US military housing complex in Dhahran, officials said last Friday.

Freeh's visit—his second in seven days to the kingdom—was provoked by what officials described as rapidly growing FBI frustration over the agency's lack of access to the suspects and its inability to obtain timely and complete information about the bombing investigation from Saudi law enforcement agents.

The officials said Freeh plans to take his complaint directly to King Fahd, a move that reflects a significant escalation of Washington's effort to overcome lingering obstacles to full collaboration between the FBI and its Saudi Arabian counterpart, known as *Mabahith*.

Last week, Freeh and the head of *Mabahith*, Minister of Interior Prince Nayef, reached an unannounced agreement that US and Saudi law enforcement agents would jointly staff a task force to direct the investigation.

One senior US official said that in deference to this arrangement, Saudi officials have cooperated "exhaustively"

in the forensic investigation of bomb fragments at the blast site and have taken many helpful new security precautions—even some that are bound to be irksome to local citizenry.

But Washington is anxious to talk to the suspects, and some officials view Nayef as more of an impediment than an aid to full cooperation in the investigation. It was Nayef who refused a previous US request to interview four Saudis before they were executed for carrying out a November 1995 bombing that killed five Americans in Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

By taking his complaint to Fahd, Freeh hopes to persuade the king to enforce the pledge of full cooperation Fahd made to Secretary of Defense William J. Perry shortly after the 25 June Dhahran bombing, which killed 19 US airmen. US officials said.

"It will send a message to the officers in the field that this has total support behind it. If nothing happened after the last message, now it goes to the top and gets fixed," said one knowledgeable source.

Perry told a Senate committee last week that he found the Saudi government's handling of the US request for cooperation in the Riyadh bombing "unacceptable" and said "I am going to insist" that the country at least turn over any information it obtains from suspects in the Dhahran explosion.

"We cannot accept the prob-

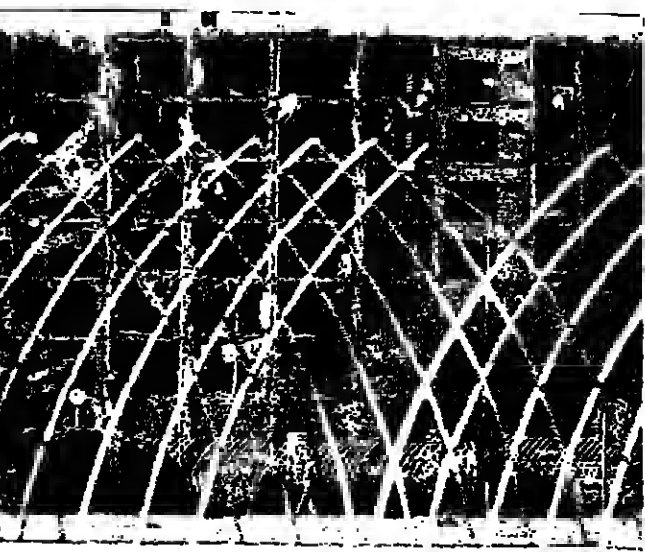
lems we had the last time," Perry said.

US officials conceded, however, that Washington's request for direct access to the suspects could place King Fahd, who suffered a stroke last year and may not be at full strength, in an awkward position.

Prince Nayef is Fahd's brother, and in rejecting the US request for access to suspects in the Riyadh bombing, Nayef's aides had cited a supposed injunction in Islamic law against allowing non-Muslims to interfere in Saudi criminal cases by conducting prison interviews.

US officials—and even some Saudis—considered this argument wholly without merit. But to accept the US request, Fahd must repudiate that interpretation of the law and also rebuke his brother. "It's an important moment," said one senior US official.

According to the accounts of several sources who asked not to be named, Freeh's cause is supported by Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington and a nephew of the king. Bandar arranged for Freeh's visit and appointment with Fahd, and then accompanied him on the trip to Saudi Arabia, the sources said.



Additional support is expected to come from Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal, a graduate of Georgetown University who has been in charge of the Saudi Directorate of Intelligence—a counterpart to the CIA—since 1977. US officials report that he has consistently supported close ties with the US intelligence community and cooperated fully in counterterrorism activities.

Freeh's trip to discuss obtaining access to the suspects and iron out other wrinkles was initially meant to be secret. But after word leaked out late Friday, FBI spokesman John Collingwood released a

statement confirming that Freeh was visiting again "at the invitation of host government officials for additional discussions regarding the investigation."

Collingwood added that the trip "shows the importance of the investigation to the United States," but said it would be "counterproductive to discuss details while it is underway."

The number of suspects detained by the Saudi government could not be learned, nor could the precise grounds on which they are being held. But they were apparently identified as suspects from photographs that Saudi officials circulated in Dhahran. None has been for-

mally arrested or charged with a crime.

During the investigation into the earlier bombing in Riyadh, Washington was not even informed about the suspects until more than a month after the arrests. Its case for interviewing the four men was initially—and unsuccessfully—pressed by then-US ambassador Raymond Mabus. Freeh and Bandar subsequently made two appointments to discuss the matter in Washington, but both meetings were canceled due to last-minute scheduling conflicts.

Finally, State Department regional and counterterrorism officials met with Bandar to seek his assistance, and the ambassador offered to take the matter up with Fahd during a forthcoming trip to Riyadh. But he was unable to make headway there, and the four accused were beheaded on May 31, while Bandar was still in the country.

US officials said that act denied Washington the opportunity to assess for itself whether—as the Saudi government insisted—the four were the only Saudi citizens directly involved in planning and carrying out the Riyadh bombing. US intelligence officials now suspect that others were also involved, but they are still digesting Saudi records from that investigation. ■



By Jennifer Moorehead

**BETHLEHEM**—In this Palestinian town, the mood is uneasy. Early in June, residents awakened in the middle of the night to the sound of a heavily-guarded Israeli army bulldozer plowing its way through ancient olive groves.

These are the first steps being taken by the Israelis to build a military road which will define the illegally-expanded municipal limits of Jerusalem. The road will stretch from the settlement of Gilo (west of Bethlehem), cut deep into Bethlehem itself, and end east of Bethlehem in Beit Sahour.

The construction of this road violates the internationally supported Oslo Accords by essentially demarcating the Jerusalem boundary even before the negotiations on Jerusalem have begun. It also marks the first stage in vast new Israeli plans for the northern Bethlehem area, plans which will sap Bethlehem's few remaining resources. Residents have begun to organize against what they see as a coordinated Israeli effort to create a Bethlehem ghetto.

Practically overnight, large areas of the Palestinian town have been incorporated into Jerusalem by a visual boundary: a 30-meter wide path bulldozed through now-devastated olive groves. Jamil Babou, 74, has seen the last of his land in Bethlehem confiscated for this new border road. "It is in God's hands," he sighs. "But even His hands are no match for Israel's stubbornness! They have taken everything and gotten away with it." Since 1967, over 61 percent of all the Bethlehem-area land (350,231 dunums) has been either annexed when Jerusalem illegally expanded its borders, or confiscated for settlements, bypass (Jewish only) roads, green areas or military zones. Settlements and their connecting bypass roads have encircled Bethlehem and nearby Beit Jala and Beit Sahour. For Bethlehem's dynamic tourist industry, these losses have been devastating.

The town's only hope for a viable economic future is in its lands that lie to the north, as yet undeveloped and largely agricultural. In addition to causing enormous devastation and the loss of 1,500 dunums, this new patrol road de-facto defines the future northern limits of Bethlehem.

The road represents the first step toward separation between the West Bank and Israel, and facili-

itates the construction of an enormous Jewish settlement to be built on the last forested mountain in this area, Jabal Abu Ghneim, which lies to the north of Bethlehem. Although a small percentage of it is owned by Israelis, the majority of the mountain is owned by residents of Um Tuba, Bethlehem and Beit Sahour.

Since Jerusalem unilaterally expanded its municipal boundaries after the 1967 war, landowners have been consistently refused the right to develop the mountain and surrounding land on the pretext that it was protected as a "Green Area." The term "Green Area" was invented by Israel to describe land upon which construction is prohibited—Palestinian land, that is. As soon as it is taken from us, it is suddenly not "green" anymore," says Kamel Issa Danoun, a landowner from Beit Sahour who recently lost land to confiscation. For a Palestinian who owns land in a Green Area, the only alternative is to sell to a Jewish buyer.

Indeed, the word "green" describes this mountain, which has a delicate forest ecosystem and is home to several species of rare wildlife and diverse flora and fauna.

For Christians, this is also a holy site: on these "Hills of St. Lucas and St. Marinos" the ruins of 6th century Byzantine and Georgian monasteries can be found, and the site of St. Theodore's Well. Also designated as Green Area are the 7,000 dunums surrounding Abu Ghneim.

This is the area most critical to the development of Bethlehem, as it is the only land left on which Bethlehem can grow; the town is virtually surrounded on every other side by Israeli settlements and roads. "It is a question of heritage," explains

## Bethlehem in the year 2000

# A case of confiscation by Israel

Israel's development of the Har Homa complex will effectively co-opt Bethlehem's tourist economy, which is still reeling from the effects of the three-year old closure of the West Bank and Gaza

Ghassan Andoni from the Palestinian Rapprochement Center in Beit Sahour.

"People around here own nothing but this land; without it, we lose our livelihood. In this district, we have no more land on which to expand our towns and villages." In 1991, the 1,850 dunums of Abu Ghneim were confiscated for "public use," which meant, in fact, the construction of a Jewish settlement. Both Jewish and Arab residents bitterly contested the confiscation, but Arab landowners were the victims of blatant racism: the confiscation orders specified that their land was to be used for Jewish construction. The planned settlement for this area, appropriately named "Har Homa" or "Mount Wall," will complete the ring of Jewish settlements around the eastern or Arab part of Jerusalem. It is planned to accommodate 6,500 Jewish families, with a projected population of 50,000 in five years. This settlement will thus consolidate Jewish control over Arab Jerusalem, tipping the coveted demographic balance forever in favor of the new Jewish majority.

But Har Homa will not simply be left as an isolated Jewish settlement nearly surrounded by Arab villages. Plans call for the additional confiscation of the 7,000 dunums of land near Abu Ghneim which belong to 2,400 families from Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour. This area, which will connect with Har Homa, is the future site of a vast new industrial/tourist complex, a "Bethlehem, Israel." The new complex will stretch west to the settlements of Gilo and north to East Talpote, virtually enclosing the northern side of Bethlehem. With it, Israeli planners hope to exploit what has traditionally been Bethlehem's main source of

income tourism.

In addition to planned luxury hotels and souvenir shops, an industrial site will be built for factories producing olive wood souvenirs, thus undermining Bethlehem's centuries-old arts and crafts industry.

The blueprints put this new infrastructure as close as 1000 meters from the birthplace of Jesus, in the heart of Bethlehem. Local residents are not blind to the danger posed by such a project. "Israel has at least six different and seemingly independent plans and schemes that, when joined together, form a master plan for changing the geographic and historical nature of northern Bethlehem and southern Jerusalem, while developing the whole area to the maximum," comments Ghassan Andoni. In fact, Israel is already scrambling to capitalize on "Bethlehem 2000," the Christian celebration of the 2000-year anniversary of Jesus' birth. Some 2.6 million Christian tourists are expected for these celebrations. Christians are the mainstay of the tourist economy in Israel, comprising according to the Israeli Ministry of Tourism) 63 percent of the tourists in 1995.

Israel's development of the Har Homa complex will effectively co-opt Bethlehem's tourist economy, which is still reeling from the effects of the three-year old closure of the West Bank and Gaza. Elias Freij, Palestinian Tourism Minister and Mayor of Bethlehem, points out that Israel has consistently undermined Bethlehem's tourist economy. Plans for the area around Rachel's Tomb, near Bethlehem's center and located in Area C (the 70 percent of the West Bank still under Israeli occupation), illustrate this point.

A 100-meter long wall has recently been constructed down the middle of Bethlehem's main street, effectively dividing it into two sections: a 6-meter wide path for passing traffic and a 10-meter wide avenue for the entrance to the Tomb. The narrow road chokes traffic while heavy construction under armed guard on the "Jewish side" of the wall makes life in the area unbearable. According to plans obtained by the Committee for the Defense of Bethlehem, a yeshiva (center of Jewish religious study), a tourist bus parking lot (the construction of which will necessitate further confiscation in the middle of Bethlehem) and other additions will expand the settlers' presence in the middle of town.

The wall, the closure, and the proposed Har Homa tourist village will help Israel to expand its annual \$3 billion-dollar tourist industry while destroying other several-million dollar annual income," notes Freij. Desperate families in the Bethlehem area have watched as their chances for any viable future have been bulldozed into a dream of the past. Struggles against these plans are complicated by reports that the Palestinian Authority has approved designs for the road.

It remains to be seen if Palestinian political leaders will be strong enough to resist at least the new settlement construction along Bethlehem's northern border. Politically, the closing off of Bethlehem epitomizes the wider Israeli vision of the final political solution for Jerusalem and the West Bank. Construction of the patrol road and the Har Homa settlement complex will successfully create a Bethlehem-area "bantustan," similar to the other determined areas of the West Bank.

Physically isolated and economically strangled, these enclaves will essentially become Palestinian ghettos in the Autonomous Areas. In Bethlehem, hardest hit will be the local Christians.

With the loss of traditional income from Christian tourists, more members of the already reduced Christian community will be forced to emigrate. Even before the 2000th anniversary celebrations begin, Bethlehem will be relegated to the permanent status of provincial village, economically dependent upon Israel with no space to grow.

Challenge Magazine

## US initiative seeks to maximize global use of Internet

By Berta Gomez  
USIA Staff Writer

**LOS ANGELES**—The Clinton administration is working domestically and internationally to "open the floodgates of cyberspace" by extending copyright protection to books, music, films, software, and other products that can be digitized and disseminated through the Internet, says the senior Commerce Department official responsible for patents and trademarks.

"The very nature of cyberspace is international... so it's appropriate to work at two levels at the same time," Bruce Lehman, an assistant commerce secretary and the commissioner of patents and trademarks, told public and private-sector leaders 16 July meeting here for the Intellectual Property Conference of the Americas.

The 15-17 July conference, which drew more than 500 participants from 32 countries around the hemisphere, builds on the process launched at the 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami to create a regional free-trade zone by 2005.

In Los Angeles, delegates from around the hemisphere repeatedly affirmed the link between free trade and intellectual property protection. Discussion focused on how—and whether—countries should adapt their laws and enforcement practices to reap the full benefits of new technology and still protect intellectual prop-

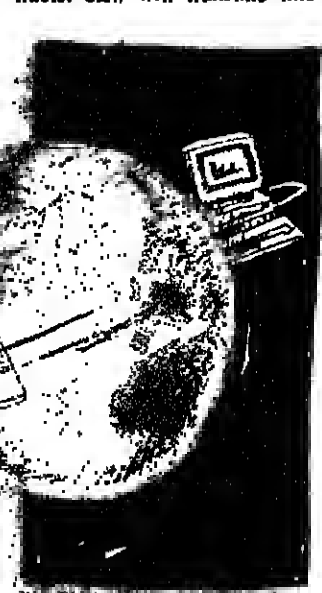
erty rights. For the Clinton administration, the effort to keep pace with Internet technology has produced a two-pronged approach, according to Lehman. The administration is both negotiating with Congress to extend US copyright laws into cyberspace, and working with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to draft new protocols to the Berne Convention—the principal multilateral treaty dealing with copyrights.

That initiative has sparked debate in the United States among Internet service providers and legal experts who wonder whether existing legal norms are adequate to regulate the behavior of millions of people with access to the Internet.

And while several conference delegates said they would favor a different approach, they agreed with Lehman that copyright protection is the key to unlocking the Internet's full potential by making valuable "works of the mind" available to the widest possible audience, and simultaneously ensuring that those who produced and financed those works receive compensation.

Lehman also assured representatives that the administration's approach is not an effort to impose uniform laws on

every country, but rather a recognition of the need "in an international environment in which we are all linked together... to have a system in which (different) laws all operate within a harmonious framework... so that people who are in one country can understand how licensing agreements, contracts, etc., will translate into



the laws of other countries." Lehman credited the US initiative at WIPO with expanding the Berne Convention debate to include digital issues that affect Internet usage. A draft protocol, which will be considered at WIPO's diplomatic conference in Geneva in December, would require member-countries to recognize the "exclusive

rights" of copyright owners to control the exploitation of their works by digital transmission. "Such protection would assist copyright owners in their efforts to make their works available on-line and know that they have a reasonable level of security," Lehman said.

The protocol would also require countries to pass laws against "third party" circumvention of technological protections. "You wouldn't want someone selling copies of a pass-key to your house," Lehman noted, adding that "similar norms" should apply to the protection of copyrighted material.

In addition to the Berne protocols, the United States and other countries are working with WIPO to draft a so-called "new instrument" dealing with rights in sound recordings and a third treaty that would offer protection to producers of large data-bases.

The treaty proposals are based on domestic legislation the Clinton administration has submitted to Congress, and which would basically refine existing US copyright laws to cover Internet transmissions.

Although Lehman was optimistic over the possibility of taking quick action to extend copyright protection to the Internet, some lawyers at the conference—as well as representatives of on-line computer services—suggested that the Internet may not lend itself to laws that regulate traditional publishing.

"In cyberspace we have 60,

million publishers, because everyone who uses the Internet is a publisher," said Los Angeles lawyer David Nimmer, the author of a book on copyright law.

At the same time, Nimmer said the law proposed by the administration could help push Internet providers to develop techniques to prevent their clients from committing copyright violations.

"I'm not ready to throw that possibility out; we really don't know how this technology will develop," Nimmer said. William Burrington, associate general counsel for America Online Inc., said the legislative package would make the provider of an Internet service liable for copyright violations committed by its subscribers. That is, if a client of America Online were to download and resell a copyrighted product, the company could be sued.

"The legislation deserves a serious look, but I think the issues need to be re-examined," Burrington said.

"We need to find a way to encourage the free flow of information, but in such a way that those liable for copyright infringements are made truly liable for their actions."

Burrington also predicted that continued privatization of communications services in Latin America would produce an explosion of on-line services—making the Internet-related legal issues discussed at the conference all the more relevant.

## It's hard to goof up with new generation of cameras

By Timothy R. Dougherty  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

**WHEN** PHOTO industry heavyweights got together a decade ago to develop a virtually mistake-proof amateur camera, they had a guy like Jerry Goldbaum in mind.

Just a few weeks ago, before heading off to Paris for a family vacation, Goldbaum went shopping in the vicinity of his Long Island, N.Y., home for a new camera. His aim was simple. He wanted something less bulky than the 35-mm camera and camcorder he already had, something that would automatically focus the lens and provide perfect exposure settings under a variety of lighting conditions. He didn't want to change f-stops, focus the lens, check the light meter or worry about mistakes in loading the film into the back of the camera. He wanted a point-and-shoot camera that produced snapshots to rival those from high-quality 35-mm cameras.

One more thing: He didn't want to spend big bucks.

A tall order, indeed. Yet, this kind of camera is precisely the type of product the world's largest makers of cameras are now introducing—after spending millions of dollars during the past decade in a remarkable joint effort.

The five manufacturers, Eastman Kodak, Canon, Fuji, Nikon and Minolta, agreed to share technological advances to turn around an industry-wide slump in camera sales. Their goal was to come up with a new format in film size and a radically new product. Each would market their own models, but base them on the shared technology that couples traditional film with the digital revolution.

Their offering, which they hope will do for the industry what CDs have done for the music industry, is called an APS, or advanced photo system, camera.

"We are looking for ways to expand the business of photography," said Chuck Westfall, assistant manager of professional markets for Canon USA in Lake Success, N.Y. "This is an add-on, not a replacement" camera for people who, like Goldbaum, already own a 35-mm camera.

Goldbaum settled on a \$189 Kodak 4100i, one of seven new APS models Kodak launched in April. And what does he have to say? "The camera really doesn't look like much, but I think it's great. It's small—it doesn't weigh much more than a couple of ounces—but the pictures turned out beautiful."

Now, if millions more consumers follow Goldbaum's lead, there will be signs of relief among a bunch of anxious camera-industry executives.

However, introducing a new format is nothing new to camera makers. Remember the disk cameras? They were small and cute, and the industry spent millions on development and marketing. But they produced lousy pictures, and the manufacturers took a bath.

The impetus this time is to offer a nearly fool-proof camera that is packed with technological improvements designed to help users avoid past problems.

Owners of 35-mm cameras have a litany of complaints, the most common: thinking they had wonderful pictures of Uncle Bob doing a cannonball into the pool only to find out later that the film was never threaded into the camera.

They also gripe about finding a roll of film in a drawer or at the bottom of a purse and not knowing whether they'd shot the film. To avoid that, APS film cassettes have distinct signals on one end of the canisters that show whether all, some or none of the frames have been exposed.

Then there are problems with storing strips of negatives and not knowing which negative to use when they want to make copies of a favorite snapshot.

The feature that primarily distinguishes an APS camera from its 35-mm cousin is how the film is exposed and processed.

The photographer using an APS camera never sees or touches the unexposed film, even when it is loaded into the camera or removed for processing. When the film is processed and returned, the strip of negatives is inside the film cassette.

There is no strip of film to thread into the back of the camera before shooting pictures. When developed film is picked up after processing, the photographer gets a print from each negative along with an index-size card of photo proofs, showing miniature pictures of every exposure on the roll. The strip of negatives is returned to the film cassette.

If copies of a print are ordered, the entire film canister is sent back to the processor, along with the index-card proof.

Each miniature photo on the card has a corresponding number, and that number is marked on the order form. But film pressing alone does not set the APS camera apart.

Each model allows the user to choose between three print formats. A button or a small switch—depending on the manufacturer and the model—produces either a standard 4-by-6-inch print format, a panoramic 4-by-10-inch format or a full-frame 4-by-7-inch format used for photos of a group of people.

Buyers now can buy panoramic cameras at stores, but these cameras shoot nothing but wide-format pictures.

The APS film also contains a small magnetic strip that encodes a variety of data that allows words, numbers and phrases to be printed on the back of each photo. It can be used to record the name or place of the subject, the time and the date. What's more, the strip also digitally records information about conditions under which the film was exposed. The data is read by the processing equipment, which can adjust the light exposure for each negative on the strip. This is a major breakthrough in film processing, and it allows processors to make quality prints.

Unlike 35-mm cameras, some APS models allow users to remove a roll of film that is not completely used up, then return it later. When it's returned, the camera advances the film to the next frame for exposure. But technological advances alone may not be able to bring back consumers hooked on video cameras.

The price of APS film is as much as 15 percent higher than that for a 35-mm camera. Processing costs also are higher. Prices for the cameras range from about \$70 for basic models to more than \$400 for more sophisticated ones.

Manufacturers are working on a system that will allow the magnetic strip on the film to convert images into a digital format to be displayed on television screens and eventually into computers where images can be loaded onto existing files.



## Report sees global warming creating more illness in world

By Jerry Stillkind  
USIA Staff Writer

**WASHINGTON**—Governments should take measures to prevent changes in the Earth's climate because increased temperatures worldwide may have caused a rise in malaria, dengue fever and other diseases, an international team of scientists has said in a new report.

"We're not talking about a lot of theoretical possibilities. Thousands of people are dying of preventable" problems, which could "get worse," Dr. Barry Levy, incoming president of the American Public Health Association, said in a telephone news conference 11 July.

The news conference by three US physicians and scientists focused on a 304-page report issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), a UN agency, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environment Program.

Laurence Kalkstein, a geography professor at the University of Delaware and a principal investigator in the program to study the health effects of climate change at the US Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA), said during the news conference that the report was comprehensive and a "consensus of the major" researchers in health and the environment around the world.

The report has been released in the midst of a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, of representatives of more than 150 countries considering whether to take measures to reduce the emissions of the greenhouse gases that are preventing some of the heat rising from Earth from dissipating in outer space.

The "basic text" for the meeting is a report issued last year by an international team of scientists that warned that Earth's temperature could increase 1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius and sea levels 15-95 centimeters in the next 100 years if greenhouse emissions are not reduced.

Environmental organizations are urging the delegates to pledge to take the steps necessary to reduce emissions of such greenhouse gases as carbon dioxide, produced in the burning of coal, oil and wood to make electricity, heat homes, power cars and trucks and cook food.

But industry and governments in much of the developed and the developing world argue that there is too much uncertainty in the science of global warming and the effects on health to justify disrupting the energy base of any country that is or wants to be industrialized. They point out that only Germany and the United Kingdom will be able to meet the non-binding goal adopted by developed countries of reducing greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

Thus, the report is seen by environmental groups as supplying more ammunition against those who advocate a wait-and-see approach. Charles Miller, who coordinated the news conference for Environmental Media Services, a coalition of US environmental groups, pointed out that two recent studies in Nature, a prominent scientific journal, indicated that human activity is causing a warming of the world and that may explain why spring has been arriving earlier each year in the Northern Hemisphere.

Indeed, the report itself argues for action even though

there is a need for more research on a wide range of climate and health issues. "However, even when the environmental health hazards arise from ecologically disruptive and potentially irreversible global environmental processes, such a wait-and-see approach would be imprudent at best and non-sensical at worst," the report states.

The study finds, as others have, that global warming may already be causing grave health problems. "Various health events have indeed occurred recently that might be early signals of global climate change. They include the substantially increased number of heat-related deaths in India, midwest United States and southern Europe in 1995 and changes in the geographic range of some vector-borne diseases" (such as malaria and dengue fever), the report states.

Dengue fever has spread in Central and South America, Dr. Jonathan Patz, a research associate at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, said during the news conference. Malaria has become more widespread through the developing world, he said. In both cases the disease is spread by mosqui-

toes who thrive in warmer climates.

Cholera has been spreading largely because rising temperatures have affected the tiny plankton in the sea that contribute to causing the disease, he said.

Dr. Levy said sea water has been inundating some coastal areas, which is ruining the underlying freshwater aquifers on which agriculture depends. Sea levels have risen and if they continue to rise some low-lying areas in Asia will have to be abandoned, he said.

Millions of people will become vulnerable to the direct and indirect effects of global warming, according to the report put together over three years by 11 experts aided by another 45 who contributed to portions of the study or reviewed various sections.

While they could not be more specific in their estimates of health effects at this time, the researchers said they could try "to create an awareness that, in destabilizing the world's climate system and its dependent ecosystems, we are posing new and widespread risks to the health of human populations."







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Cult of heavy industry hard for East Europeans to break

## Humans just another cog in the machine

By Silviu Brucan

IN EAST EUROPE, the relationship between humans and machines is still framed by the economic, social and psychological legacy of the communist drive for rapid industrialization. Since Lenin and Stalin declared industrialization to be socialism's main goal, a real cult developed around advanced machine tools. In the 1950s, the first tractor made in Romania was celebrated as a national event. But the political system which venerated machine tools abhorred information technology. When the new technologies began to emerge, the system of state-planning proved too rigid to assimilate them. Regimes based on information control came in conflict with faxes, computers and cellular phones. In countries like Romania, where even manual typewriters had to be registered at local militia stations, the communist leadership fought a rearguard action against the new machines that left their country a decade behind its competitors in the West. Following the revolutions of 1989, computer giants like Apple, Gold Star,

IBM and Digital flooded East Europe with their machines, competing furiously to establish information networks in the post-communist societies. Once you are drawn into this whirlwind of immediate communication and immediate information, the global marketplace gives you little alternative to staying on and keeping up with the latest developments. During 1994-95, approximately 100,000 Russians and East Europeans went—with varying degrees of reluctance—online through computers linked to the Internet. But,

due to cost, businesses still make up most of the users in this part of the world. In addition to this global imperative, East Europe must become technologically current if it is to achieve its predominant goal: integration into the Euro-Atlantic structure, specifically NATO and the European Union (EU). To qualify, East European nations must close the terrible economic gap between them and the Western part of their continent. But East Europe is having a hard time letting go of its old, losing strategy of modernizing through industrialization.

For instance, Romania's blueprint for gaining admission to the EU sets a target of 10.1 percent annual growth for industrial production, which will—if attained—bring the country level with Greece and Portugal by 2004. It does, however, state that Romanians should acquire a degree of computer literacy and speak at least one other language. From a social standpoint, East Europe is not ready for the large-scale introduction of computers and information technology. While the West has a large middle class which provides millions of Internet users, the East European middle class is just taking shape. Thus computers, which are close to being a household appliance in the US, are still an unaffordable luxury for most East Europeans.

Meanwhile, the region's leaders are becoming alarmed at the one-way traffic coming down the Internet and cable-television channels. The sense that local cultures and identities could be overwhelmed is compounded by the violence, sexual perversity and obscenities that abound in Western television programs and films. Some of these tensions were on display at a recent seminar in Bucharest on the role of computers in modern society. The keynote speaker argued that the human brain is nothing more than a digital computer, and therefore computers will soon be able to do just about anything a human mind can. Most of those attending challenged this assertion, but they did concede that the human mind could be dragged down to the level of computers.

This concern applies especially to children. If they spend hours watching TV and playing with computers, they will have little time for classical literature. And if they do not read and think about Shakespeare, Goethe or Pushkin, then machines will have succeeded in dimming the intensity of intellectual inquiry—mankind's greatest asset. The conferees concluded that societies need to prevent this from happening. The fact is that up to now, the technological revolution has generated its own momentum. Humans have shown little ability to control its direction or mitigate the damage it does. Today, the current generation of information technology is expelling workers from the industrial process. The result: mass unemployment, an outcome humans would try to avoid if they were really using their brains to deal with the machinery they create. ©

SILVIU BRUCAN is *The World Paper's* ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR EASTERN EUROPE.

As the winter war between chess master Gary Kasparov and an IBM computer highlights, the tug-of-war between human and machine continues unabated. But this age-old mixture of innovation, reaction, adaptation and cooperation comes in a variety of national flavors

"Mechanical wallets" catch on

## ATM banking unites Filipinos

By Yet Vitug

FOR FILIPINOS ARE millions of pesos different from their poor countrymen, but their wallets contain one thing in common: the automated teller machine (ATM) card. The common denominator does not end there. A company president, like the construction worker, has to patiently queue in most ATM booths. The plastic card has therefore become sort of a social leveler and has also succeeded in instilling discipline among Filipinos. While it has vastly reduced person-to-person transactions in the bank, Filipinos remain a warm people, in spite of the offerings of cold technology. Of all technologies recently introduced in the Philippines it is the ATM which has created the greatest impact on the lives of the citizenry. Unlike cellular phones, fax machines and computers, ATMs cater to the cross-section of society. To some, it is the means to settle power or telephone bills by simply pushing buttons. It is likewise the lifeline to the dependents of some four million overseas contract workers who remit their earnings through a bank which, in turn, debits the amount in the account of the recipient, withdrawable from the ATM. There is less reliance now on sending money home through co-workers bound for the Philippines.

Ruffians and scoundrels, too, have found an ally in the ATM as they pursue their nefarious activities. In several instances kidnappers have demanded that the ransom money be channeled through an ATM. Former press secretary and newspaper columnist Teodoro Benigno was able to extricate himself from his abductors, and perhaps saved his neck, after paying off the kidnappers—with money withdrawn from an ATM. Even bribes, it is said, are paid directly to their ATM accounts, negating face-to-face contact. Others who seek government contracts find out the ATM account numbers of the relevant state officials, (with the latter's tacit permission, of course) and through these magic numbers the bribe money flows in. No envelopes, please, and cash deposits are the rules of the game. Generally, however, the ATM is treated as a mechanical wallet, with a multitude queuing before a machine to withdraw money to pay for a ticket to the cinema or satisfy the craving for a hamburger sandwich. Nobody foresaw all of this when electronic banking was introduced into the country in the early 1990s. Initially, the machines were availed of only by the upper and middle classes who, since transactions can be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week, saw it as an emergency cash box. The office employee, meanwhile, had mistakenly equated it with a credit card, considered a distinctive mark of those awash in cash or blessed with huge incomes. Ordinary workers likewise felt intimidated by, and suspicious of, these machines. Would it dispense the right amount? Wouldn't my money vanish if I keyed in a wrong entry? Today, however, even construction workers earning roughly 180 Philippine pesos (US\$6) a day have access to the ATMs. They have no choice but to contend with their fears of the machine because it is only from the ATMs that they draw their salaries. Starting three years ago, big firms have been paying the wages of some employees through ATMs. Every payday the employees merely receive a slip of paper or statement of account detailing deductions and net pay, withdrawable from the ATM. The practice is now popular even among small firms. Paying their employees through the ATM offers convenience, eliminates loads of paperwork and cuts the employers' operating costs. With the scheme, the office accountant can perform other functions as he or she is spared the tedious tasks of counting pesos and centavos and slipping them into individual envelopes. It has likewise eliminated the risk of losing half of the monthly payroll to thieves. Almost all monetary transactions can be facilitated through the ATM's: balance inquiry, withdrawals, transfer of funds to other accounts, payment of bills and deposits. The depositor enjoys control over the transaction and, perhaps most important of all, privacy. The account holder can withdraw as little as P100 without embarrassment, since he or she doesn't have to deal with nosy tellers who might be amused by an account balance that is almost zero. The growing number of ATM users—legal or otherwise—has its downside. Machines often run out of money or break down during periods of heavy use, notably on paydays. It is extremely frustrating to wait in a long queue, only to find out after a lengthy period of time that the machine went off-line. There have been several cases too when the ATM gobbled up the card or issued erroneous reports on transactions. There were likewise several in-

## White knight takes blue castle

By Crocker Snow Jr.

NATOLY KARPOV, a 45-year-old Russian, and Gata Kamsky, a 22-year-old American, have been contending for the world chess championship during recent weeks in the Russian town of Elista. But Sicilian openings and Petrov defenses notwithstanding, the real drama for this kibitzer endures from a chess contest earlier this year between the then reigning world champion, Gary Kasparov, and the International Business Machines (IBM) pretender, Deep Blue. The plot lines of that man against machine confrontation, which took place in Convention Hall in Philadelphia last February, should not be forgotten. Here was Kasparov, two-time world champion, pitted against the largest, most precisely programmed computer ever in a US\$500,000 title match. The Delaware-based Association for Computer Machinery put up the prize money in celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Luddites and iconoclasts around the world like me could only shudder and cringe at the possibility—perhaps probability—Deep Blue would prevail as the first machine chess champion of the world. Despite Kasparov's past victories over computerized challengers, it was even money among aficionados of the game whether silicon smarts would prevail over human intelligence. Kasparov, the arrogant 32-year-old Azerbaijani, confidently proposed that the winner take all the prize money. After Game One he wasn't so sure. The computer had won after 37 moves, utilizing the powers of split second calculation and prediction made possible by the 32 silicon processors that are its "brain." Mankind needed a counterattack. Many chess experts were shocked. They had predicted that Kasparov's rationality and experience would prevail in Game One and maybe Game Two before the computer—digitally and bloodlessly—figured out the champion's tendencies. Chess pundits, camped at various Internet sites, believed that the microchip would win out as the match wore on, that the stress and strain generated by publicity, pressure and fatigue would undo Kasparov as the match against the tireless machine progressed. Wrong again. Deep Blue won the

first match, lost the second, tied the third and fourth and was on the offensive in the fifth before it declined Kasparov's offer of a draw, made an error, and lost the game. Having turned the tide, Kasparov crushed Deep Blue in the final game. It was Kasparov who made the bloodless machine blink, not vice versa. He had predicted as much. "The computer is not flexible," he had stated before the match. "You can accurately guess what kind of decisions it will make." A turbo-boasted super computer known in the trade as an SP 2, the Big Blue could draw on 32 gigabytes of memory, 128 gigabytes of hard disc space and eight years of work by IBM scientists, allowing it—according to its programmers—to evaluate every combination of Kasparov's options 11 or 12 moves ahead. But computers are programmed by scientists after all, and it's arguable

chine," perhaps to the millennium. It was an epic event, a struggle precisely waged and proudly won. There was much more at stake psychologically (and in terms of human conceit) than many of us would ever want to admit. Both Kasparov and Deep Blue are now lone wolves. The computer is looking for work, while Kasparov has broken with the International Chess Federation over a petty dispute about the location of a 1993 title match. But if we know now that the two chess champions battling it out in Russia this month for an inflated \$2 million in prize money have more depth than Deep Blue, it is Kasparov whom we can thank for allowing us to revel in that. ©

CROCKER SNOW JR. is EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of *The World Paper*.

### ALMOST CHESS CHAMPION SEEKS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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A good loser: after its Deep Blue computer lost to world chess champion Gary Kasparov, IBM took out a tongue-in-cheek advertisement in leading US newspapers lamenting the unemployed status of the vanquished machine. Deep Blue won the first of the six game series, and drew two others, but squandered a winning position in the fifth game that opened the door for Kasparov

### There is less reliance now on sending money home through co-workers bound for the Philippines

ed the risk of losing half of the monthly payroll to thieves. Almost all monetary transactions can be facilitated through the ATM's: balance inquiry, withdrawals, transfer of funds to other accounts, payment of bills and deposits. The depositor enjoys control over the transaction and, perhaps most important of all, privacy. The account holder can withdraw as little as P100 without embarrassment, since he or she doesn't have to deal with nosy tellers who might be amused by an account balance that is almost zero. The growing number of ATM users—legal or otherwise—has its downside. Machines often run out of money or break down during periods of heavy use, notably on paydays. It is extremely frustrating to wait in a long queue, only to find out after a lengthy period of time that the machine went off-line. There have been several cases too when the ATM gobbled up the card or issued erroneous reports on transactions. There were likewise several in-

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Catching up with the West shapes Eastern approach to technology

# Machinery of government drives Asian attitudes

By M.G.G. Pillai

**T**HE CURRENT relationship between Asians and technology is best described as a shotgun wedding, with national governments wielding the shotgun. Like most marriages of this kind, the partners have little idea about the long-term implications of their union.

Take, for example, Abdul Majid Khan. A spare 70-year-old Malay man, Khan still tends 10 acres of rubber trees in Raub, 60 miles east of Kuala Lumpur, that he inherited from his father 40 years ago.

In his spare time, he teaches the Koran to the children in the village his grandfather had come to almost a century ago. He talks nostalgically of how his life has changed in his seven decades.

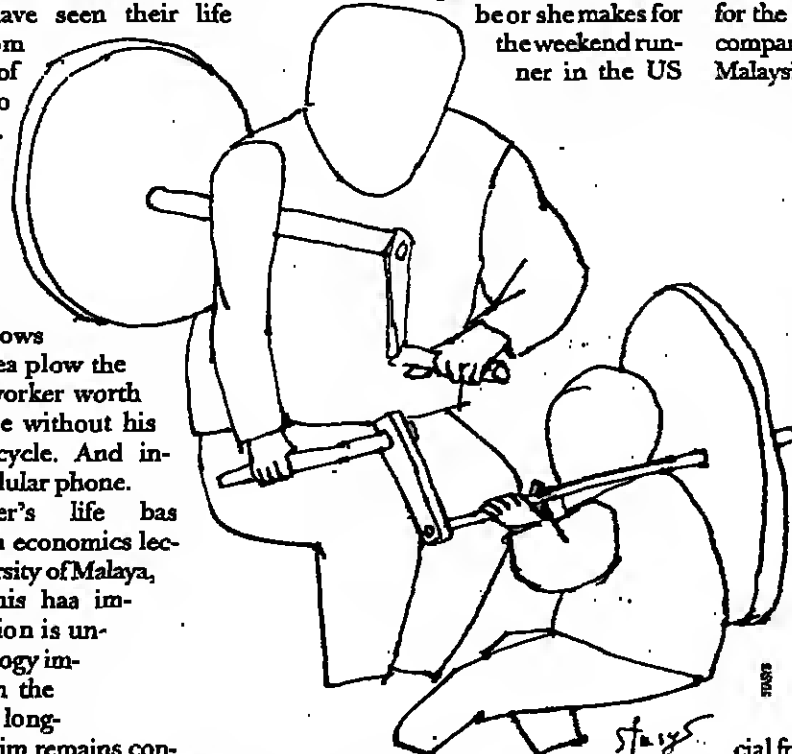
Today he steers a motorcycle deftly along the footpaths, dirt roads and highways, with the ubiquitous cellular phone hanging on his arm. As a part-time insurance agent, he finds it useful to contact his clients. But he remembers when the only way he could move about was by foot. The bicycle arrived in his life 40 years ago, and the motorcycle 20 years later. He would like to slow down, but he cannot—as his father and grandfather could not—if he is to keep body, soul and family together. That is the paradox in his life.

Khan's life reflects the impact of technology. It has opened him to new vistas, and given him new options for managing his work, religion and the additional income he earns. He is a typical case. Thousands of Malaysians, indeed Asians, have seen their life transformed from the near poverty of their parents to relative affluence.

The television is no stranger to most workers, nor the chainsaw or bulldozer. In Kedah state, mechanized plows from South Korea plow the rice fields. No worker worth his salt would be without his Japanese motorcycle. And increasingly the cellular phone.

"The worker's life has changed," said an economics lecturer at the University of Malaya, "but whether this has improved his position is uncertain." Technology improves his life in the short-run, but the long-term impact on him remains contentious. When it comes to technology, Asia has much ground to make up on the West, but its reliable workers and far cheaper wages make it an ideal place

to produce products that the multinational corporations can sell for several times their cost of production. An Indonesian worker would have to spend more than a month's wages to buy a pair of athletic shoes or she makes for the weekend runner in the US



or Europe. With this influx of industrial technology comes a desire among Asian governments to embrace market eco-

nomics and reduce their commitment to social policies. In their desire to be a cog in the global marketplace, many governments are prepared to downgrade social and cultural programs, providing those who need it most—the workers and the poor—with only rudimentary coverage.

In the current climate, services are made available to anyone who can pay for it. Kuala Lumpur has an excellent cardiology center which has a justifiable reputation in Asia both for the excellence of its facilities and its comparatively low costs. But the average Malaysian cannot afford its services.

Newspapers often carry heart-rending appeals from the poor needing a complicated operation but unable, without public assistance, to pay for it in a government-sponsored hospital.

The archetypal model for this new, technological society is Singapore, which analyzes every social service under the harsh light of profit. Those availing themselves of these services are stigmatized as indigent. In a compact island with a small population, market forces can be made to work hand-in-glove with social forces. Singapore's technology and its byproducts, well orchestrated within its no-nonsense social framework, enables the city-state to operate as it does. The removal of social conscience is balanced by a steady, highly touted growth of wealth and modernization. But the cultural and so-

cial side-effects of full-scale capitalism are, to Singapore's government, offensive. This accounts for the abrasive espousal of what Lee Kuan Yew, the state's eminence grise, insists are Asian values; a return to communitarian ideals of the pre-industrial agrarian society.

These side-effects are the problem with technology, especially when the relationship with its users is imposed rather than allowed to evolve. The chainsaw makes for quick felling of more trees, the bulldozer clears large tracts of land for building houses, more efficient electrical and electronic devices make it simpler for the worker. But the downside of this is not calculated. The environmental, social and cultural consequences of technology are ignored, but it is this efficient use of technology that contributes to frequent floods, changing rainfall and atmospheric patterns—all of which add to the burdens of everyday life in many cities, towns and villages.

To take but one example, when houses are built these days large tracts of land are cleared, the area leveled long before construction begins, leaving the area barren and open to erosion. Be that as it may, Khan lives for the moment, as most workers do. The problems of the environment and societal and cultural dislocation are way beyond his comprehension, except when it affects his own family. And he has nurtured his children and grandchildren well. In this, he is no different from the worker of yesteryear in Asia. □

M.G.G. PILLAI is a KUALA LUMPUR-BASED WRITER AND COMMENTATOR ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

## BANKING UNITES

Continued from page 1

stances when withdrawals were debited from someone's account although the machine had failed to dispense the amount. In such instances, the matter has to be reported to bank personnel and the hapless customer has to wait for at least 15 days to iron out the error.

Still, many banks are enticing the people to use their ATM services. The more ATM users, the better the bank's profit margin. A service fee of P10 is slapped after four transactions in a month from your home bank. The service fee is automatically imposed if you used other banks' ATM facility. Moreover, most banks impose a P50 penalty if the ATM account holder fails to maintain the prescribed minimum monthly balance.

Nilo Sanchez, a salesman who has been drawing his salary for two years from an ATM, now prefers the old system of getting an envelope every day right at his office. "I get all of my money on time and don't have to wait in line," he says.

Despite all the complaints, most Filipinos still consider ATMs a big relief. For them the convenience offered more than offsets the problems and risks. □

VET VITUG IS THE MANAGING EDITOR OF *Marid Agribusiness Digest*, A MANILA-BASED MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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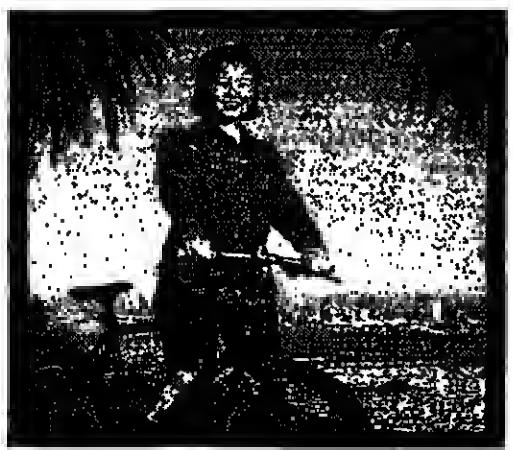
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## Cinema

**"RUMBLE IN THE BRONX"** (New Line, \$102.65): He's been an international superstar for a long time, but action icon Jackie Chan had a hard time cracking the American market... until this showcase for his abilities was released. Doing all of his own stunts, he plays a Hong Kong policeman who travels to New York City to help a shopkeeper (Anita Mui) in warding off a gang of vicious extortionists. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"ANGELS AND INSECTS"** (Evergreen, \$98.32): Based on A.S. Byatt's novel "Morpho Eugenia," this sensual drama features Krisin Scott Thomas ("Mission: Impossible," "Four Weddings and a Funeral") as a member of an upper-class family of the 19th century that gets an addition via marriage... a biologist (Mark Ryland) who discovers that the members aren't quite what they seem. Patsy Kensit also stars. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"HELD OVER: 'BROKEN ARROW'"** (Fox, \$105.51): John Travolta plays a villain for a change in Hong Kong director John Woo's ("Hard Target") action-crammed tale, about an Air Force pilot who steals a Stealth plane to sell off the nuclear weapons it holds. Christian Slater also stars as a fellow aviator betrayed by the bad guy, and determined to dismantle the scheme with assistance from a park ranger (Samantha Mathis). \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"THE CROSSING GUARD"** (Miramax, \$100.71): Actor Sean Penn wrote and directed this revenge-themed melodrama, starring Jack Nicholson as a troubled man who spends a number of years plotting his own method of getting even with the person (David Morse) who killed his daughter while driving drunk. "Forrest Gump's" Robin Wright, who's now Penn's wife, and Anjelica Huston also appear. \*\*\* (R: AS, P, V)

**"ALEX"** (Orion, \$91.04): Undeniably well-timed for its video release, since the start of the Olympic Games is just around the corner, this New Zealand-Australia co-production focuses on an ambitious young swimmer (played by Lauren Jackson) who intends to land a place on her country's team in 1960. However, she doesn't foresee her height and a competitor becoming problems. Chris Haywood also stars. \*\*\* (Not rated: P)

**COMING SOON: "GEORGIA"** (Miramax, July 23): Jennifer Jason Leigh plays the needy, envious sister of a popular singer (Oscar nominee Marc Wainwright) in the acclaimed drama. (R)

**"IT'S MY PARTY"** (MGM/UA, July 23): A man dying of AIDS decides to give himself a party before ending his own life. Gregory Harrison and Olivia Newton-John appear. (R)

**FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY:** AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

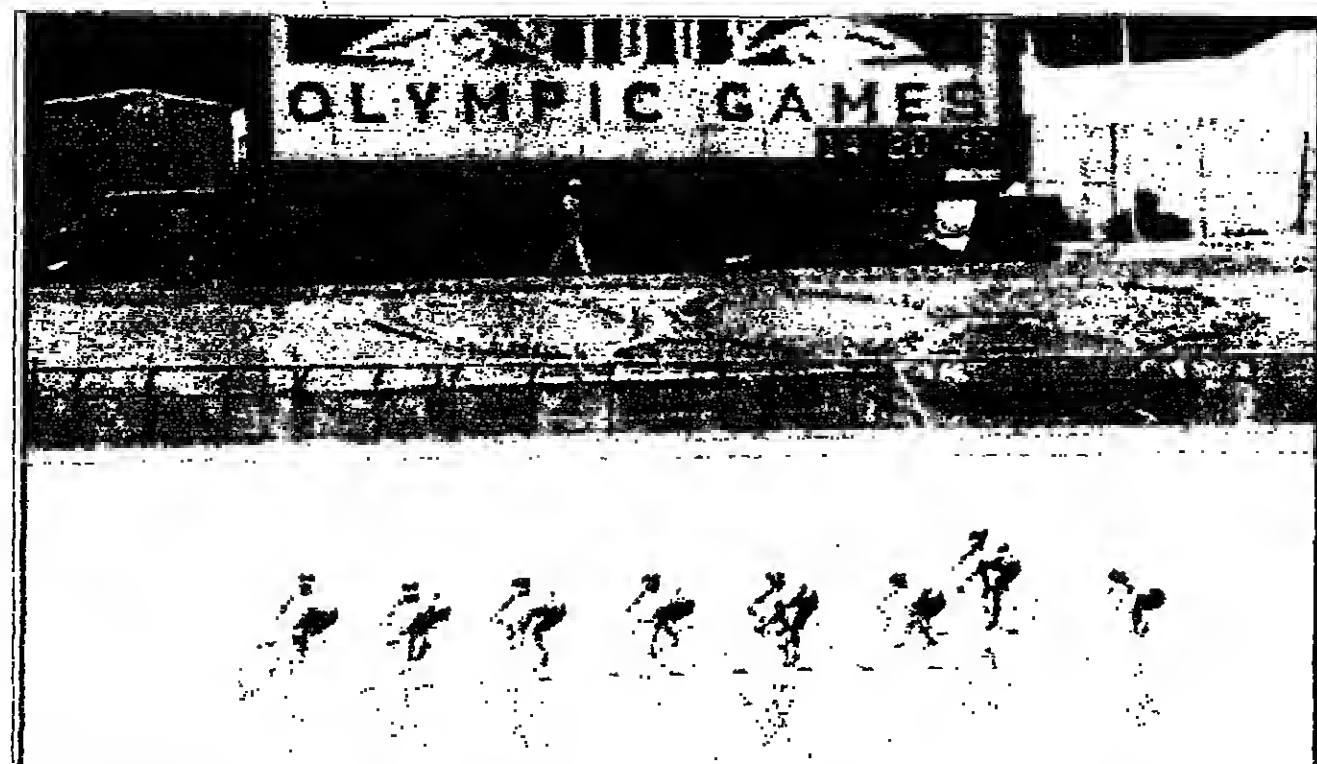
### ENGLISH PROGRAMS

**SATURDAY**  
3:05—Moonraker  
3:30—Pumpkin Patch  
3:45—Big Brother Jake  
4:10—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:25—Olympic Games  
10:00—News in English  
10:20—Olympic Games  
1:40—Varieties  
2:25—Olympic Games

**SUNDAY**  
3:05—The Mask  
3:23—Bush School  
3:35—Mac and Mutley  
3:55—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:15—Olympic Games  
10:00—News in English  
10:20—Olympic Games  
1:55—Varieties  
2:25—Olympic Games  
06:35—Closing

**MONDAY**  
3:05—Richie Rich  
3:30—Bonkers  
3:55—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:15—Olympic Games  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:20—Olympic Games  
02:15—Varieties  
06:10—Closing

**TUESDAY**  
2:45—Opening  
2:50—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:15—Olympic Games  
8:00—Varieties  
8:23—Olympic Games  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:20—Olympic Games  
02:05—Varieties  
02:25—Olympic Games  
06:10—Closing



Olympic Games

**WEDNESDAY**  
3:45—Opening  
3:50—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:20—Olympic Games  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:20—Olympic Games  
02:15—Varieties  
02:25—Olympic Games  
06:35—Closing

**THURSDAY**  
3:15—Opening  
3:20—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:15—Olympic Games  
10:00—News at Ten

10:20—Olympic Games  
05:25—Closing

**FRIDAY**  
2:45—Opening  
2:50—Olympic Games  
7:00—News in French  
7:15—Olympic Games  
10:00—News at Ten  
10:20—Olympic Games  
06:00—Closing

**PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS**  
**SAMEDI**  
5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Emission jeunesse

La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Pyramide  
6:00—Série  
Château Vallon  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Faut pas rêver  
"L'Inde"

**DIMANCHE**  
5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Emission jeunesse  
La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Pyramide  
6:00—Magazine  
Envoyé spécial

"La septième merveille du monde"  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Sports et musique

**LUNDI**  
5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Diversité  
L'école des fans  
Gilbert Montagné  
6:00—Magazine  
Thalassa  
"Mal de terre"  
7:00—Le journal

7:15—Magazine  
Cinq sur cinq

**MARDI**  
5:00—Dessins animés  
5:15—Emission jeunesse  
La vie devant moi  
5:30—Jeux  
Pyramide  
6:00—Magazine  
Savoir plus santé  
"Non à la douleur, oui à la morphine"  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Ushuaia

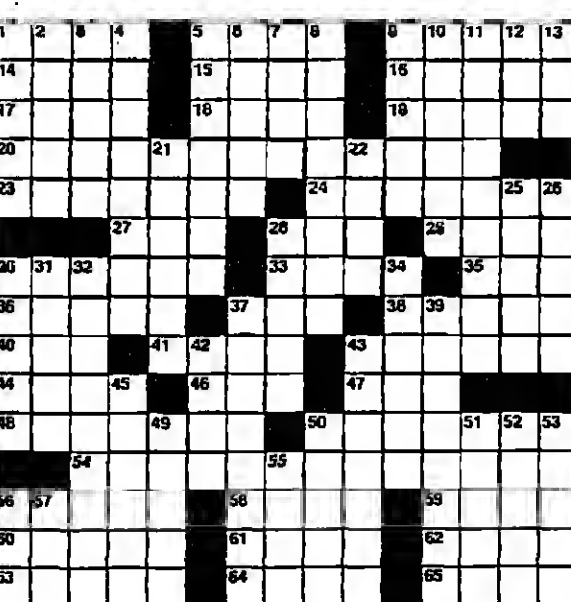
**MERCREDI**  
5:00—Dessins animés  
5:30—Série  
Simonon  
"Le mouchoir de Joseph"  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Sports et musique

**JEUDI**  
5:00—Dessin animé  
5:30—Variétés  
Le monde est à vous  
Lenny Kravitz  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Ushuaia  
Variétés  
Tarata

**VENREDI**  
5:00—Dessins animés  
5:30—Film  
"Passeur, cinq années de rage"  
7:00—Le journal  
7:15—Magazine  
Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**ACROSS**  
1 Plane  
5 Dam it  
9 Pofo  
13 vaccine  
14 Dill, old style  
15 Sword  
16 "A Bell for"  
17 Zhigago's  
18 Actress  
19 Studied  
20 Troopship  
21 Meeting  
22 Large  
23 wasps  
27 Reply, abbr.  
28 The sun  
29 Cookies  
30 Purly  
33 Actor Joel  
35 Through  
36 Novelist  
37 Zola

**DOWN**  
1 Rooms in a  
2 Enrag  
3 Conditions  
4 Ship rigging  
5 American  
6 Beauty, for  
7 Of bees  
8 Volunteer  
9 Flavor  
10 Decorates  
11 Mixologist  
12 Feminine  
13 Band the  
14 Canned  
15 Native of  
16 Lutz  
17 Coin toss  
18 Flash  
19 food  
20 Make a  
21 point  
22 Emulate  
23 Draft beer  
24 Of abb and  
25 Musical  
26 drama  
27 Sacred  
28 song  
29 Neighbor-  
30 hood  
31 Disorderly  
32 group

### —THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

**Weekly Tip:** Shopping expeditions will cost more than expected, so take care.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** You may wish you could call in sick. A hangover's not a good excuse. Your spirits rise as a good-looking friend becomes interested.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** You're sharp as a tack — try something difficult. Your house needs attention. Also listen patiently to a friend's gripes.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** Call in money others owe you. Household chores interfere with your fun.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Your intuition's right on target. Take notes. Beware of a friend who wants to spend your money.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):** Hustle to get overdue material out pronto. You're more in control, although you can't do everything you want. Seek a powerful person's private advice.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Tell your problems to your friends — they'll help you out of a jam. To please a demanding person, you'll have to follow orders exactly.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23):** There may be an oral exam. You're being graded on your appearance too, so look sharp. You and your team can accomplish great things.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21):** An older person will want to order you around. Better comply. You're gaining valuable experience.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Ask an expert to help you hide your money. Jog or bicycle further than you've ever gone before.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Go along with your mate's decision. Put money into savings and settle financial disputes. Plan ahead so you can start your weekend travel.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You have more than you can handle. Give it your best shot. Delegate some chores.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):** Make plans with your sweetheart concerning family matters. Work for the money. Adopt a strict budget.

**If You're Having a Birthday This Week:** You know what to do so stop worrying and get started! You're authorized to buy a big ticket item this year. Shop wisely.

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### Bridge

Two for the Price of One  
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ A Q 8 6 2  
♥ A K J  
♦ A Q 4  
♣ 10 3

**WEST**  
♠ 3  
♥ 10 7 4 3 2  
♦ J 6 5 2  
♣ K 6 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 4  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ K 7 3  
♣ A Q 8 5 4

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1♠ Pass 2NT Pass  
6NT Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

Pay careful attention to your spot-cards. That proved to be the key to success on this deal.

North-South got to slam the direct way. With South showing 13-15 points and a balanced hand, North knew the pair's combined assets were enough for a small slam and no more.

West led a heart, taken in dummy. There were 10 fast tricks available

and, if spades divided evenly, that would produce the two tricks required. If spades were 4-2, declarer could set up a long spade, and the slam would then depend on the club finesse.

Declarer crossed to the king of spades and continued with a spade to the ace. The 5-1 split was demoralizing. Now it seemed that declarer needed not only a successful club finesse, but a 3-3 split in the suit as well. The fate of the hand was soon settled. Declarer led a club to the queen and, when that lost, the contract went down the drain.

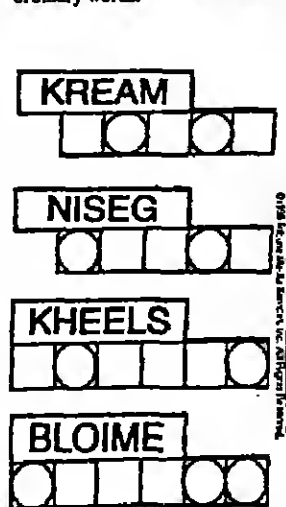
Let's look a little deeper in the club situation. The ten of clubs on the table and the eight in hand give declarer an additional chance that could be tested without cost. At trick four South should have led the ten of clubs from the board, with the intention of running it.

As the cards lie, if East does not cover the club, West will be forced to win the king. When clubs break well, 12 tricks are easy. But even after East covers with the jack and the queen loses to the king, all is not lost.

Suppose West returns a safe heart. Dummy wins, the three of clubs is led and the eight is finessed. With the nine outside and the suit splitting 3-3, the slam limps home.

### Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: A

Answers: MAKER SINGE SHEKEL MOBILE

### Words of Wisdom

Freedom exists in learning to think for yourself.

Panic is the result of a stampede of reason.

Prevention is always easier — and cheaper — than remedy.

If you want to be a better thinker, be a better self-examiner.

Words, once unleashed, cannot be called back.

Just because you know how to make a living doesn't mean you know how to live.

Acts of kindness may not receive a lot of attention at the time, but they are never forgotten.

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### An evening of masterful performance

AMMAN (Star)—By every standard, the evening of chamber music held by the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) at Darat Al Founun was splendid. The concert was in cooperation with the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The success of the evening of musical enchantment lies not only in the masterful performance of the group, but in its well chosen venue.

In scorching summer days in Amman, there is hardly any place that is more fitting for outdoor music than this artistic site. At the moderately spaced ground at Darat Al Founun, the harmonic sounds of musical instruments and acoustics are more enhanced. The music played by the group was most exciting as it's often gemmed up with the wind which jubilantly sways the surrounding trees.

This highly impressive concert marks the first joint venture between ACOR and the National Music Conservatory. It was a result of an ACOR-sponsored project by Dr. Philip Posey, who was in Jordan on a two-month stay for an investigation into Jordan's contemporary and traditional music.

Included in the six-man musical group was Dr. Posey, his wife Ann and daughter, Dawn. Also in the group was Mohammed Othman Sidqi, the conductor of the National Music Conservatory together with Ali Musa and Shabla Haddad.

Dr. Posey, who said he worked extensively during his two-month stay with both the army and NMC orchestras, explained that the main objective of his stay was not only an investigation into contemporary and traditional music but to also set-up in Amman a center where traditional music can be preserved.

Posey expressed deep concern for the country's already fading old traditional music, especially the bedouin one. He believes it is imperative not only to preserve it but also to revive it.

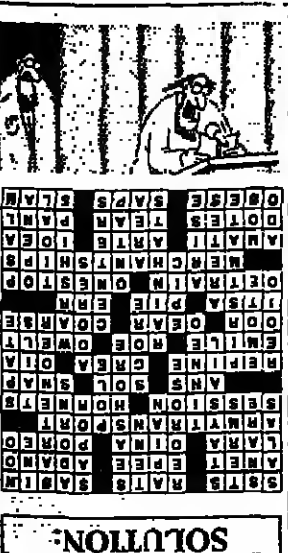
The center will hold libraries for both books and videos on the preservation of traditional music, and a museum where traditional musical instruments can be displayed. "The general idea is to have a place where people can learn how to preserve it."

This is the first step towards ACOR and NMC co-sponsored program of preservation. Posey said he was quite impressed with the hospitality, cooperation and dedication of those he had worked with. "We like Jordan very much, its people are wonderful," he said. "The musicians I have worked with are great, for they are first-rate."



● Ingrid Liedgens, first secretary of the German Embassy in Amman cuts a cake presented by the Forte Grand Hotel in celebration of Germany's victory of the European cup '96

EVERYTHING HAS  
ITS BEAUTY  
BUT NOT  
EVERYONE SEES  
IT.



NOLLATOS



# Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

## Une possible rencontre entre MM. Arafat et Netanyahu

Le principal adjoint du président palestinien Yasser Arafat a déclaré mardi qu'une rencontre entre Yasser Arafat (notre photo) et Benjamin Netanyahu pourrait prochainement avoir lieu. «J'estime qu'il y aura bientôt une rencontre entre le président Arafat et Benjamin Netanyahu», a déclaré Mahmoud Abbas à l'issue d'un entretien entre MM. Arafat et le chef de la diplomatie israélienne David Levy à Beit Hanoun dans la bande Gaza. «Le principal résultat de cette rencontre, c'est la création d'un cadre de négociations» entre Israël et les Palestiniens a ajouté M. Mazen. Ce rendez-vous était historique pour la droite israélienne qui s'était jusqu'à présent opposée à tout contact avec l'O.L.P. Le Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu a salué cette importante rencontre, estimant qu'elle permettait l'ouverture d'un canal de discussions entre les Israéliens et les Palestiniens. Déclarant qu'il entendait appliquer les engagements pris par Israël dans le cadre du processus de paix et poursuivre ce processus, il a affirmé être prêt à rencontrer Yasser Arafat «si cela doit servir les intérêts et la sécurité d'Israël».



Hervé de Charette

## La France se montre disponible

Lors d'un court passage mardi en Jordanie, le ministre français des Affaires étrangères Hervé de Charette, en tournée trois jours au Proche-Orient, a rappelé la contribution que la France pouvait apporter dans la poursuite, voire la relance, du processus de paix.

La tournée que le ministre français des Affaires étrangères, Hervé de Charette, a terminée hier en Egypte avait des allures de marathon. Le programme de cette tournée l'a amené tout d'abord en Syrie, puis au Liban, en Jordanie, dans les territoires palestiniens, en Israël et enfin en Egypte. Cette véritable course contre la montre ne lui a permis de rester que quatre heures mardi en Jordanie, le temps d'un déjeuner de travail avec le prince héritier Hassan puis d'une rencontre avec le Premier ministre jordanien Abdelkarim Kabariti. En convalescence à Londres, le roi Hussein n'était pas présent dans le pays au moment de cette visite.

Hervé de Charette avait trois objectifs pour cette tournée proche-orientale. Il souhaitait tout d'abord «rappeler les dirigeants de la région». Ensuite, il tenait à «rappeler ce que sont les positions françaises et les positions européennes concernant le processus de paix. Il peut y avoir des changements de positions dans tel ou tel pays, notamment à la suite d'élections législatives. Mais il n'y aura pas de changement de la position française et de la position européenne: cette position est inscrite, comme elle l'a toujours été, par la stricte application et le respect des résolutions du Conseil de sécurité. Elle est fondée sur le respect des engagements déjà souscrits et la poursuite du processus de paix. Enfin, elle est guidée par des principes désormais établis, à savoir en particulier le droit à l'autodétermination des Palestiniens et le principe de l'échange de la terre contre la paix».

Enfin, il entendait «rappeler la détermination de la France à apporter sa contribution à la poursuite, et le cas échéant, à la reprise du processus de paix dans les mois qui viennent. Une participation française que je crois utile pour la réussite de ce processus de paix dans l'intérêt de l'ensemble des parties».

La France, qui a joué un rôle primordial dans la signature du cessez-le-feu entre Israël et le Liban au mois d'avril dernier, entend bien coopérer à participer au règlement politique des conflits de cette région. «Dans le déroulement du processus de paix, il ne peut pas y avoir un canal unique de négociations. Je suis partisan de la théorie du double canal. Nous ne prétendons à aucun monopole. Ce n'est aucun sens. Mais nous pensons que nous pouvons apporter une contribution importante à côté des autres à la reprise du processus de paix et à son bon aboutissement.» Le fait que le négociateur américain Dennis Ross décide d'écarter le même jour que lui une visite au Proche-Orient ne traduit, selon Hervé de Charette, aucune rivalité franco-américaine: «avec les États-Unis, la France souhaite évidemment travailler en pleine concertation et en pleine coordination. (...) Il ne faut pas voir de la compétition là où il n'y a que de la coopération».

Au cours de ses différents entretiens en Jordanie, Hervé de Charette a pu constater que «les positions jordanaises et européennes sont extrêmement proches pour ne pas dire les mêmes. Je crois que la Jordanie a un rôle extrêmement important dans le nouveau contexte qui suit les élections israéliennes». Déclarant à propos des réactions qui ont suivi le scrutin israélien que «l'on a toujours tort de se mêler des élections des autres», il a expliqué que «la France prend les choses comme elles sont, au nom du principe de réalité. Elle ne renonce à rien, ne change aucune de ses idées, n'abandonne aucun de ses principes. Mais elle est disponible».



Hervé de Charette, ministre français des Affaires étrangères, lors de sa conférence de presse mardi à Amman.

La considération qui lui revient (...) Une institution, parmi d'autres d'ailleurs, qui représente la vie des Palestiniens de Jérusalem Est. Une décision qu'Hervé de Charette a ensuite défendue à Gaza où il a rencontré Yasser Arafat, déclarant «qu'il n'y a pas et qu'il n'y aura aucun changement dans la position française à l'égard de la Maison d'Orient».

### L'affection particulière de la France

Elle s'est en effet montrée disponible et décidée à rencontrer tous les protagonistes de la région au cours de cette tournée. Pour cela, la France a dû se livrer à un pénible exercice diplomatique. Ne souhaitant pas heurter Benjamin Netanyahu qui s'oppose à toute visite de ministre des Affaires étrangères à la Maison d'Orient, le siège officiel de l'O.L.P. à Jérusalem, tout en affirmant ne «céder à aucune pression», Hervé de Charette a finalement évité cette étape à risque. Le directeur de la Maison d'Orient Fayyad Hussein n'était pas à Jérusalem lors de la visite du ministre français, seuls des collaborateurs d'Hervé de Charette s'y sont finalement rendus pour rencontrer des responsables palestiniens. «Nous avons toujours veillé à manifester à l'égard de la Maison d'Orient

Syndicat de la presse jordanienne

## Des dossiers pressants

Nouveau président du syndicat de la presse jordanienne, Seif Al-Sharif débute son mandat avec un certain nombre de dossiers brûlants à traiter, dont la nouvelle mise en détention d'un journaliste.

Seif Al-Sharif est le nouveau président du Syndicat de la presse jordanienne (SPJ) depuis trois semaines, après avoir été quatre ans vice-président de ce syndicat. C'est un homme qui connaît bien le milieu du journalisme car il a été directeur du journal *Al-Dustour* et dirige aujourd'hui le quotidien *Al-Dustour*.

Son élection a été le fruit d'un large consensus: il a été élu au premier tour de scrutin avec 170 voix, alors que les quatre autres candidats en totalisaient 140. Une première dans l'histoire de ce syndicat formé en 1953. «Certaines personnes ont protesté contre mon élection en disant qu'un directeur de journal ne pouvait pas occuper le poste de président du syndicat», explique Seif Al-Sharif avec un sourire entendu. «Mais un bon directeur de journal peut faire un bon directeur de syndicat».

Son programme comporte dix points. Il s'est notamment engagé à améliorer la retraite des journalistes, à leur assurer un salaire minimum de 200 dinars par mois, à construire un centre d'hébergement, à travailler sur une nouvelle loi garantissant aux journalistes une certaine place dans la société, et enfin à renforcer le rôle des professionnels syndiqués dans les agences de presse nationales et internationales.

Il espère ainsi améliorer le niveau de ce «métier sacré» et resserrer les rangs des journalistes face aux difficultés qu'ils peuvent rencontrer dans l'exercice de leur profession. Le plus important pour Seif Al-Sharif, à l'heure actuelle, est de construire une nouvelle maison de la presse, le roi Hussein ayant promis 100 000 dinars pour la financer.

A l'ordre du jour se trouve bien sûr la négociation sur le nouveau projet de loi du SPJ



Seif Al-Sharif

que le gouvernement a présenté le 8 juillet. Un projet que le SPJ souhaiterait modifier. Parmi les points litigieux se trouve la définition du journaliste, qui, pour le SPJ, ne concerne que les journalistes de presse écrite et non ceux des autres médias, «contrairement à l'interprétation large qu'en fait le gouvernement».

Les conditions d'adhésion au syndicat font aussi l'objet d'une polémique: le syndicat insiste pour que celui-ci soit titulaire d'un diplôme universitaire et pratique cette profession à l'exclusion de tout autre métier. Enfin, la composition du conseil de discipline du syndicat oppose le SPJ et le gouvernement: le SPJ refuse en effet que des juges en fassent partie, préférant qu'il soit constitué de journalistes membres depuis au moins quinze ans du syndicat.

«Sur les 49 articles du projet de loi, nous en avons accepté 28 sans aucune modification», explique Seif Al-Sharif. «Les divergences sont donc limitées».

Le sujet de la liberté d'expression fait partie de ses points à discuter. «Chaque pays a ses particularités», explique Seif Al-Sharif. «Dans un pays conservateur comme la Jordanie, tout n'est pas permis. C'est vrai que cela peut paraître contraire au principe

de la liberté d'expression. Mais, par exemple, il faut respecter la religion. Or, certaines publications, en particulier des hebdomadaires, exploitent des sujets immoraux ou sensationnels pour vendre plus. De plus, la Jordanie est un mélange de populations différentes. Si ce fragile tissu s'abîme, c'est l'unité elle-même qui est en danger. En cas de dépassement de ces limites, nous ne souhaitons pas de sanction judiciaire. Nous avertissons le rédacteur en chef du journal concerné pour qu'il prenne les mesures nécessaires».

Seif Al-Sharif a obtenu du ministre de l'Information la promesse que des journalistes ne seraient pas arrêtés pour leurs idées ou pour ce qu'ils écrivent. «Nasser Kammech, le rédacteur en chef de La voix de la femme, a été arrêté et placé en détention samedi pour avoir publié un article sur la dégradation des mœurs en basse-ville. Nous avons demandé au ministre de le relâcher. Avec le temps, nous espérons que ce genre de situation disparaîtra».

Le nouveau président du SPJ a confiance dans la presse jordanienne, qui, selon lui, est sur le bon chemin. «La presse hebdomadaire et la presse quotidienne se complètent. Il n'y a pas de concurrence entre elles. La presse quotidienne est conservatrice, les hebdomadaires étant plus téméraires».

Pour lui, l'explosion des périodiques, même ceux qui ont un caractère sensationnel, est une bonne chose qui promet, pour l'avenir, une presse de qualité, une fois que les lecteurs auront fait leur choix. «C'est une preuve de vitalité. Il ne faut pas juger maintenant cette nouvelle presse. Attendez cinq ans, et vous verrez que nous aurons beaucoup avancé».

Mona Qaddoumi

## SELON L'OM

Le moins que l'on puisse dire pour décrire la phase critique que la Jordanie traverse depuis plusieurs mois, c'est que le climat social n'est pas franchement au beau fixe et que la mauvaise foi domine dans le pays. Il y a comme un mauvais vent qui propulse dans nos poussoirs une odeur perfide jusqu'aux oreilles.

Le Jordanien se réveille chaque matin pour découvrir des journaux crachant la haine de quelques alphabètes et héros en cartons, et écouter des discours qui peuvent l'inconscience de ceux qui aiment mêler aux sons des clairons le battement des tambours. Comme si la Jordanie était au bord de l'agonie. Et du haut de nos collines on peut entendre l'écho des chants funèbres de répugnants corbeaux annonçant l'heure et le lieu de nos funérailles.

Messieurs, vous qui semez la discorde, vous qui divisez aujourd'hui cette Jordanie pour mieux l'affaiblir, sachez que notre pays n'a pas encore rendu l'âme et que le temps n'est pas venu de se partager sa dépouille.

Certes il y a un malaise. Sans doute existe-t-il une crise de confiance entre les citoyens et ceux qui les gouvernent. Indiscutablement, beaucoup se sentent trompés, dupés voire trahis et ne voient de la prospérité annoncée que des mirages, réalisant que cet obscur tunnel dans lequel ils se trouvent est interminable. Mais le peuple jordanien n'est pas dupe et il sait que qu'il n'est pas le seul peuple à être dans la tourmente. C'est pour cela qu'il ne va pas être l'auteur de sa propre perte.

Si le Jordanien sait brillamment dissimuler, ses peines en sachant que de nombreux ennemis guettent sa colère, il est en droit d'exiger de ne pas être pris pour un imbécile par ses tuteurs. Il a notamment besoin d'être convaincu en des termes simples de la nécessité de tripler le prix du pain. Il veut comprendre pourquoi cette mesure sauvera l'économie nationale alors que dans d'autres domaines, la satiété engendre presque l'impunité.

Si le gouvernement est sincère et déterminé à ne pas devenir l'ennemi des gouvernés, s'il jure d'effacer toute crainte pour que le citoyen pauvre puisse dormir sur ses deux oreilles, s'il garantit aux plus démunis que cette décision n'est pas la première étape qui fera d'eux des mendicants attirés par des coups d'imaginaire, le nuage actuel laissera la place à un beau ciel bleu, et ceci à la grande déception des ennemis jurés de ce petit pays.

Le philosophe stoïcien Sénèque disait: «La raison veut décider ce qui est juste alors que la colère veut qu'on trouve juste ce qu'elle a décidé». La colère est certes un court instant de folie et la parole, celle qui guérit et non celle qui provoque, peut apaiser la tension et calmer les ardeurs. Mais encore faut-il, comme le disait Sénèque, «que les ventres affamés aient des oreilles».

Souhail Al Sweis

Le Jourdain, on y revient  
Tous les jeudis  
dans le Star  
645380

## Le festival s'offre une grande deuxième semaine

Alors qu'il entre dans sa deuxième semaine, le festival de Jérash peut déjà se féliciter d'avoir offert quelques grandes soirées au public jordanien, comme les concerts de la chanteuse libanaise Majdah el Roumi. Une ambiance qui ne devrait pas retomber avec la venue cette semaine, notamment, du chanteur égyptien Moustafa Kamar.

Comme tous les peuples ayant subi mal de conflits et de crises, les Jordaniens ont donné d'eux l'image déformée d'un peuple sérieux et triste. Le festival de Jérash contredit fortement une telle idée. Quand on observe la foule se dirigeant vers l'ancienne ville romaine au moment du coucher du soleil, on réalise que ce peuple a envie de se distraire en profitant d'une occasion grandiose comme celle du festival de Jérash.

L'organisation s'est attachée à bien répartir les activités nationales et internationales tout au long de la ville romaine, Le Forum, illuminé pendant les quinze jours du festival, ne se vide pas des amateurs d'art folklorique venant chaque soir de différents pays. D'un côté du Forum se trouve la cave de Zeus où une exposition présente des chefs d'oeuvre de peinture de plusieurs artistes du monde arabe ainsi qu'un certain nombre de costumes traditionnels. Vers la rue des colonnades les artisans de Palestine, des

Emirats et de Jordanie se suivent, créant une sorte de continuité entre la tradition d'autrefois et l'adaptation qui en est faite aujourd'hui.

Un café arabe a été reconstitué au milieu des colonnades, juste à côté des artisans jordanais, pour permettre aux visiteurs de savourer la beauté de lieux légendés par de glorieux ancêtres. Un narghileh et une tasse de thé à la menthe livrent alors des secrets d'ivresse au son de l'air frais soufflant entre les colonnes de l'Histoire.

Le théâtre d'Artémis a accueilli pendant deux soirées une troupe anglaise, *Odd Socks*, qui a adapté un texte de Shakespeare pour des spectateurs du 21ème siècle. Ce théâtre verra cette semaine trois troupes de l'arab venant de Syrie, du Maroc et d'Irak, se succéder. Le *lorab* est un chant qui met l'auditeur en extase avec des paroles provoquant des sentiments de joie ou de tristesse. «Chacun essaie de présenter le meilleur spectacle aux spectateurs, en gardant à l'esprit

que l'on joue devant notre conscience et devant Dieu», explique Majdah el Roumi, la chanteuse libanaise qui a enflammé la première semaine du festival de Jérash avec deux concerts exceptionnels. Majdah el Roumi utilise sa voix pour faire passer un message politique, luttant pour une coexistence pacifique de tous les peuples dans la dignité.

La foule a fait la queue pendant plus de deux heures avant le début de ses spectacles. Plus de sept mille spectateurs n'ont cessé de chanter et de danser avec cette grande vedette arabe. Une telle ambiance est prévue pour la venue cette semaine du chanteur égyptien Moustafa Kamar. C'est un public encore plus jeune et enthousiaste qui devrait gambr les gradins de l'amphithéâtre romain ce soir et demain.

Pour les touristes se rendant l'été en Jordanie, la programmation du festival a inclus deux chanteurs du Golfe, Mohamed el Mazen et Ahlam ont donné deux concerts d'une grande qualité. Leur musique, très éloignée du rythme des chansons moyen-orientales, a réuni un grand nombre de spectateurs

du Golfe.

Avec le chanteur syrien Sabah Fakhri, la chanson traditionnelle du Moyen-Orient reviendra à l'honneur, dimanche et lundi.

Sur les planches, le public pourra notamment apprécier le théâtre du Libanais Chérif Khaznadar, présent à Jérash avec une troupe française (voir encadré).

Les enfants sont eux aussi bien présents à Jérash. Sur scène, tout d'abord, avec la Maîtrise des Hauts de Seine, une chorale française rassemblant 65 enfants sous la direction du chef de chœur Francis Bardot. Mais aussi dans les gradins, un certain nombre de spectacle leur étant destinés, essentiellement au théâtre Garasia.

L'ambiance du festival est elle-même un vrai spectacle: l'écho des différents spectacles, l'odeur des narghileh, les ballons multicolores des enfants, les barbe-à-papa et les vendeurs de café arabe sentant la cardamome produisent un tableau qui, à lui seul, mérite le déplacement à Jérash.

Oroub el Abed

### Julia Domna l'Impératrice

Que se passe-t-il lorsque des étrangers prennent la tête d'un grand empire? Julia Domna est une pièce inspirée de la vie de l'impératrice romaine Julia Domna, femme de l'empereur Septime Sévère. Grâce à leur enthousiasme et leurs efforts, ces deux étrangers venant des colonies ont réussi à diriger l'empire romain.

Une histoire qui évoque le long parcours d'amour et de sang, de guerres et de complot, qui a fait de deux enfants de l'Orient les maîtres de Rome puis les a écrasés, eux et leurs fils, sous la barbarie des ambitions rivales. Ainsi vient-elle, cette femme, se sacrifier aux pieds de la déesse Ashtar, pour que sa descendance retrouve le pouvoir. Appel qui sera entendu puisque les «Impératrices syriennes» régneront sur Rome pendant quarante-deux ans (193-235). Une pièce de Françoise Gründ et Chérif Khaznadar, jouée en arabe par Mireille Maalout et Ninar Esber. Les 28, 29 et 30 juillet au théâtre Artémis à partir de 20h30.

## Le programme du festival de Jérash du 25 au 31 juillet

### Au théâtre sud

A partir de 20h30

25/26 juillet  
le chanteur Mustafa Kamar (Egypte)  
27 juillet  
la troupe folklorique arménienne Nour Siroote (Syrie)  
28/29 juillet  
le chanteur Sabah Fakhri (Syrie)  
30/31 juillet  
The Cavem Beatles (Angleterre)

### Au théâtre Artémis

A partir de 20h30

25 juillet  
La troupe de 12 de Hus-sein al Adami (Irak)  
26/27 juillet  
Pièce de théâtre Media interprétée par l'association des artistes jordaniens  
28/29/30 juillet  
Pièce de théâtre Julia Domna (France)  
31 juillet  
Chorale, La maîtrise des Hauts-de-Seine (France)

### Au théâtre de sons et lumières

A partir de 20h30

26 juillet  
La troupe de l'Université d'Amman  
27/28 juillet  
la troupe folklorique Kokeltal (Allemagne)  
29/30 juillet  
La troupe de danse folklorique de Tai-pei (Taiwan)  
31 juillet  
La troupe folklorique The



De nombreuses activités ont lieu pour les enfants au théâtre Garasia

### Family international (Etats-Unis)

26 et 31 juillet

21h30: Soirée chansons par Haitham Shomali (Jordanie)

27/28 juillet

20h00: Soirée musicale par Haitham Amer et son groupe (Jordanie)

28/29/30 juillet

21h30: Théâtre Al thour ya maolana (Jordanie)

29/30 juillet

20h00: Soirée musicale par Rami Shafik et son groupe (Jordanie)

31 juillet

20h00: Soirée poésie

### Au Palais de la culture (Amman)

25/26/27 juillet

20h00: La compagnie libanaise Caracalla présente «Elisabeth de Carthage»



Les artisans se succèdent tout au long de l'ancienne voie romaine de Jérash.



## Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	69238
British Council	636147/8	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610838		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Hoya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Y.W.M.A.	664251		
Dar al Funun	643252		
Alla Art Gallery	639303		
Baladna Art Gallery	657132		
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Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		



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Air Lanka	682140
Alitalia	625203
Alyemda (Air yemen)	653691
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
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